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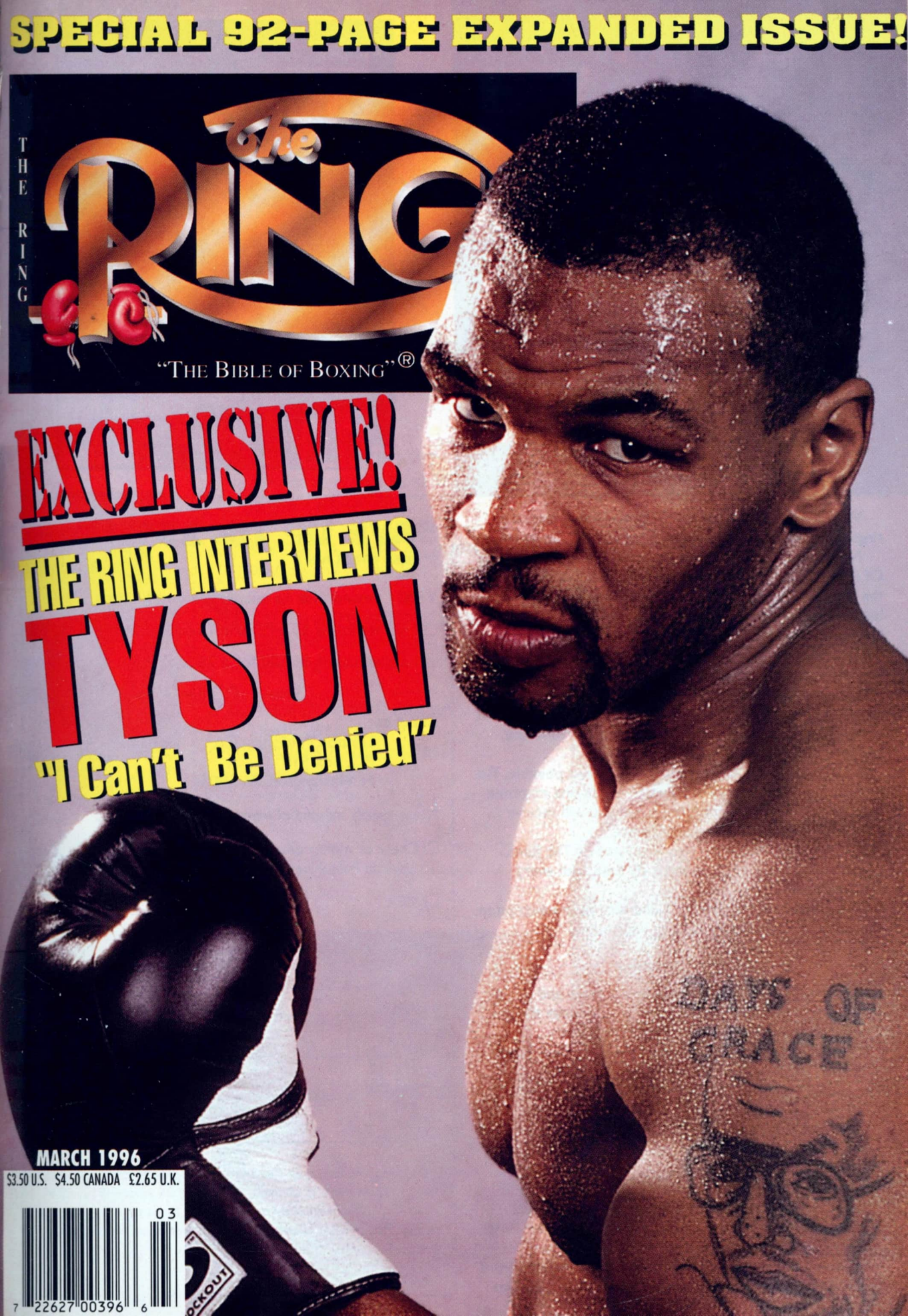

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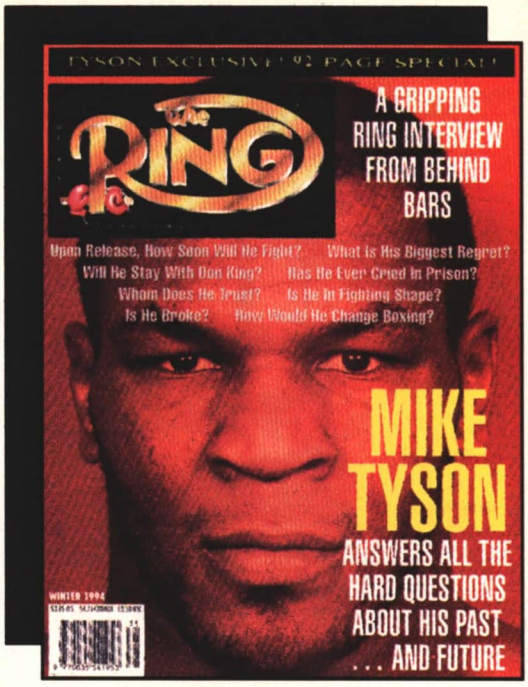

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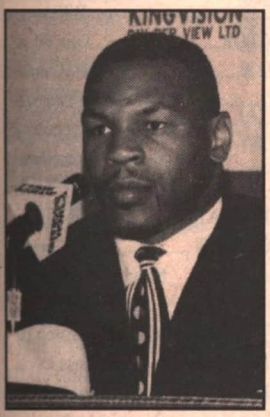

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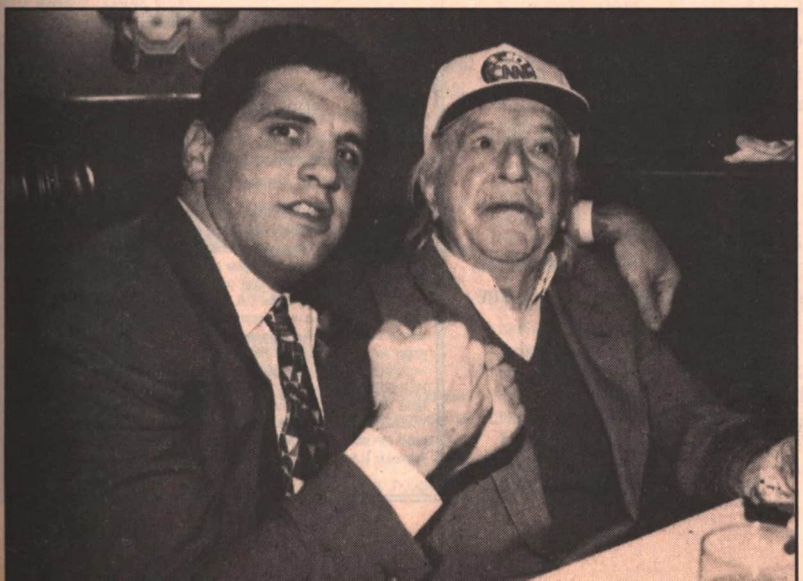

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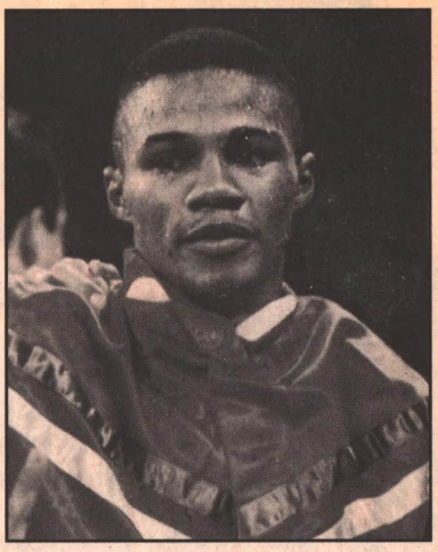

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RINGSIDE

On a weekend in early-December, more people saw Pete Sampras lead the USA to victory over Russia in the Davis Cup finals than saw Azumah Nelson regain the WBC 130-pound title by knocking out Gabe Ruelas. In fact, people always watch more tennis on TV than boxing. That's because tennis tournaments are on free TV and basic cable, while boxing's biggest bouts air on pay-per-view or pay-cable. That's a shame, but that's a point for another column.

I play tennis, and I like watching it, but everyone knows how it works with the professionals: Sampras beats Andre Agassi one week, Agassi shaves his head and beats Sampras the next. And no matter who wins or when, *everyone* gets rich.

It was thought to be high drama when, after match point of a Davis Cup singles victory against Andrei Chesnokov, Sampras, his legs cramping, was carried off the court by his teammates. High drama? Maybe for tennis.

Imagine if Sampras had to play knowing his previous opponent had died as a result of their match. Or if, during a toe-to-toe baseline rally, every one of his opponent's topspin forehands threatened to rattle his brain. Or if even one loss meant a return to the satellite tour and, at best, $10,000 purses. That, I'm sure, would create a lot more pressure than playing for the red-white-and-blue in the Davis Cup.

Watching the end of Sampras' match with Chesnokov, we knew his pain would soon subside. Indeed, one day later, he was playing doubles. But watching Ruelas struggle against Nelson, we couldn't be sure he'd ever recover from a different kind of pain. In May, Jimmy Garcia died shortly after being stopped by Ruelas' non-stop attack. During the Nelson fight, Ruelas wasn't able to focus on the task at hand. He said afterward, "I looked at Azumah, and I saw Jimmy."

When Ruelas returned to his corner after being dropped by a hook to the liver in round four, the scene was as memorable as Teddy Atlas challenging Michael Moorer during the Evander Holyfield fight or Simon Brown continuing to throw punches while flat on his back and semi-conscious after being kayoed by Vincent Pettway. Trainer Joe Goossen issued a profanity-laced whipping in an effort to inspire his fighter, but Ruelas couldn't even look at him. The fighter's head kept dropping toward his chest. His body language said he wanted to quit—he wanted to be *anywhere* but where he was—but like Jimmy Garcia, he'd have rather died first.

When the bell rang, Ruelas walked to ring-center and accepted his fate in a manner boxing deems acceptable. It won't matter in the record books that he finished on his feet, but it was important to him. Dignity is a big part of machismo.

If boxing were promoted like the NBA, and the TV commercials featured a catch-phrase like "I love this game," I would suggest "This ain't tennis. Ain't even close."

That's exactly what makes it so special.

***

THE RING is interested in adding an intern to the boxing staff. If you live in the Philadelphia area and would like to apply, please contact the editor by writing to THE RING, 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 75, No. 3 **March 1996**

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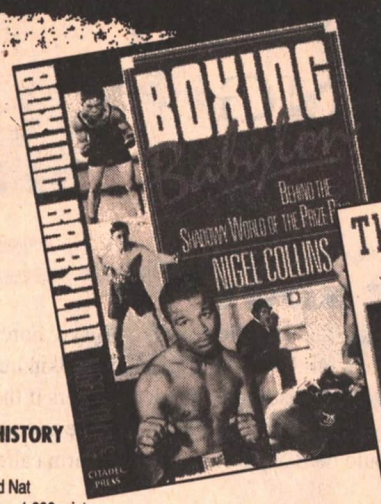

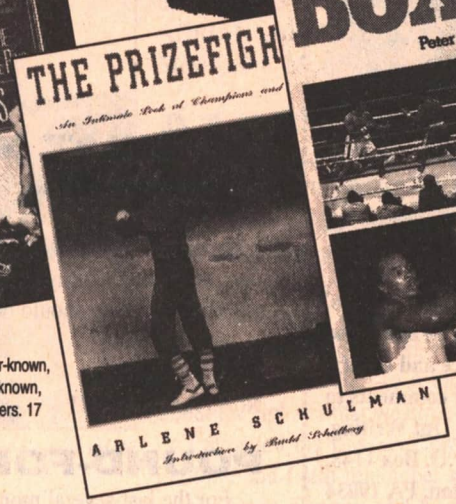

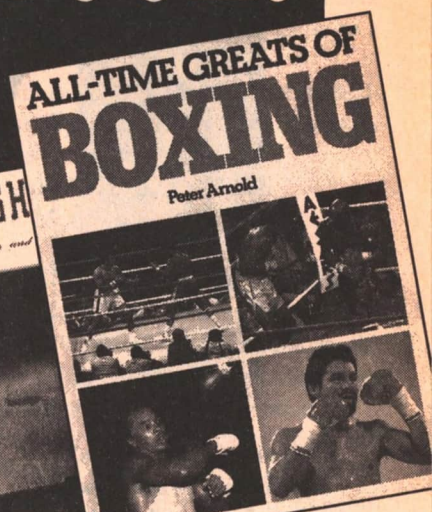

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

SO WHAT NOW?

So Tyson is a no-show and Holyfield bows to Bowe, Foreman is a former and Moorer needs more fights. Mathis waits for the next big take, and Zolkin quietly works his way up, and Briggs pounds the ring with a loud noise, and Thunder wonders if the judges can read, and Seldon we seldom see with a worthy opponent. Golota we might see a lotta, and maybe Tony Tubbs should fight Joe Hipp and they should both retire and open a fat farm called Hipps and Tubbs.

So what now?

DONNA SNOW
North Arlington, NJ

POUND-FOR-POUND

For the last several months I've been hearing that Roy Jones should pass Pernell Whitaker and move to the top of the pound-for-pound ratings. Though Jones is a special talent, rating him first at the expense of Whitaker is ludicrous. Jones has captured a pair of titles in his young career, while Whitaker won three titles at lightweight alone. Whitaker has fought a better quality of opposition, and his accomplishments tower over those of Jones.

Not only is "Sweet Pea" one of four men to have captured the lightweight and welterweight crowns, joining Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Roberto Duran, but he has joined Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, and Thomas Hearns as the only fighters to have won world titles at four different weights. Pretty elite company, don't you think?

TONY HUNG
Thousand Oaks, CA

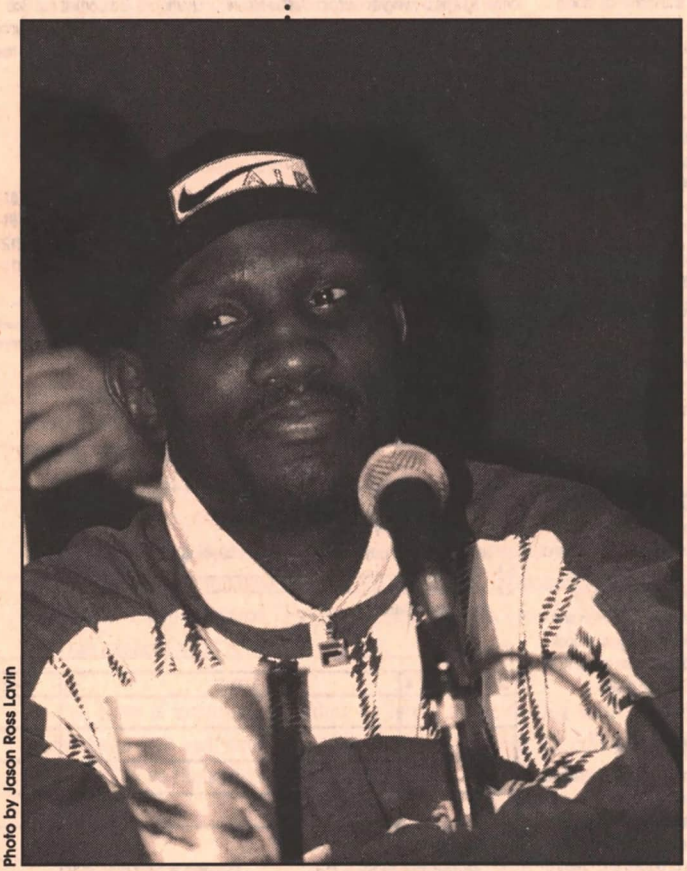


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Does Pernell Whitaker deserve to be rated ahead of Roy Jones in the pound-for-pound ratings? At this point, "Sweet Pea's" credentials are far more impressive.

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

Here are some suggestions for "Battle Of The Legends":

Heavyweight: Larry Holmes-Ezzard Charles; Tony Galento-Oscar Bonavena; Joe Frazier-Max Baer; George Foreman-Primo Carnera.

Light Heavyweight: Eddie Mustafa Muhammad-Jose Torres; Michael Spinks-Bob Satterfield.

Middleweight: Roberto Duran-Ceferino Garcia; Rocky Graziano-Bennie Briscoe; Tony Zale-Nigel Benn.

Welterweight: Emile Griffith-Kid Gavilan; Hector Camacho-Fritzie Zivic; Henry Armstrong-Carmen Basilio; Mark Breland-Benny (Kid) Paret.

Lightweight: Pernell Whitaker-Beau Jack; Joe Brown-Ken Buchanan; Alexis Arguello-Ismael Laguna.

Featherweight: Salvador Sanchez-Sandy Saddler.

CHARLES D. BROWN
Brentwood, NY

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

What some fans are wondering: If Evander Holyfield did this to Riddick Bowe, what might Mike Tyson do? Let's hope we find out some time in 1996.

TYSON FEVER

In anticipation of Bowe-Holyfield III, I was anxiously awaiting the Winter 1995 issue of THE RING to arrive at my doorstep. And who was on the cover? Mike Tyson!

Perhaps next month you can feature Tyson on the cover sporting an Ace bandage on his thumb. And maybe you'll bury coverage of Bowe-Holyfield in the summary section.

I enjoy your magazine, and maybe sometime in the near-future Tyson will earn the right to be spotlighted on the cover. But don't you agree that in the meantime, there are more interesting fighters, and more historic fights and events taking place?

I suppose Tyson's picture simply sells more magazines. If this is true, why don't you display your magazine in the tabloid section, right next to O.J.'s mug?

MICHAEL A. JEFF
Warwick, RI

Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood has stated that Riddick Bowe will whip Mike Tyson in eight rounds or less. I clearly differ from this opinion. Firstly, Tyson has faced a better quality of opposition than Bowe, and that goes for before he won the heavyweight title, while he was defending it, and after he lost it. On the other hand, "Big Daddy" defeated mediocre opposition before winning a title that had been unified by Tyson. Nobody can tell me that Bert Cooper was a top contender. And Bowe got beat by Tony Tubbs, even if the judges saw a different fight. Bowe's only great fight was his title-winning effort against Evander Holyfield.

Secondly, in terms of motivation, Tyson has a clear edge. The three years he spent in prison helped him find a new sense in his life and taught him to take his responsibilities more seriously. On the other side, Bowe's only motivation is to increase his bank account and his status as a celebrity.

Tyson will defeat Bowe because he is mentally and physically superior. Tyson by unanimous decision or late-rounds stoppage.

ADRIAN LARENA BALLESTEROS
Mexico D.F. Mexico

A LOST TRADITION

Boxing promoters should take pains to restore one of the sport's finest traditions, the introduction to the crowd of former champions and contenders just prior to the main event.

It may well be that in some cases, this is still done, but because of the expense of air time, the introductions are not shown on television. Instead we're treated to a half-hour of blather about the fighters that we already know (yawn).

I attended the Cassius Clay-Doug Jones fight in 1963, and I still remember what a thrill it was to see Gene Tunney and Sugar Ray Robinson introduced in the ring.

Back in the good old days of free television, names like Willie Pep, Bob Satterfield, Jake LaMotta, Tony Zale, Rocky Graziano, Joe Miceli, Ike Williams, Lauro Salas, Lee Savold, Ernie Durando, Paddy Young, Art Aragon, and, of course, Joe Louis, drew loud cheers when introduced. They weren't fighters anymore. Some had been world champs, others had been contenders. But what magic it worked when we heard their names, and what memories came flooding back.

Let's restore this lost tradition. Introduce fighters, not movie stars!

JOE FERACE
Ledyard, CT ■

They don't make ring lineups like they used to. At Madison Square Garden in 1983, Muhammad Ali joins (from left) Saoul Mamby, Eusebio Pedroza, Ray Mancini, Gerry Cooney, and Vito Antuofermo. Reader Joe Ferace writes this is a tradition that should be restored.

ROUND ONE

MISSING—MYSTERIOUSLY

We hope that by the time you read this, the mysterious story of cruiserweight contender Sergei Kobozev has a happy ending. But as we went to press, hope was beginning to fade.

Since November 8, Kobozev, 31, has been missing. The Russian-born, Brooklyn-based fighter was last seen leaving a garage in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. He was reported missing later that night by Lina Cherskikh, his live-in companion. Five days later, Kobozev's car was found in the parking lot of a nearby diner where he sometimes ate. No one remembers seeing Kobozev there.

In late-November, a Brooklyn detective told *The New York Times*, "It's going on three weeks and still not a clue." The case has been referred to the homicide squad.

Kobozev's last fight was the biggest of his career, a close points loss to WBC interim cruiserweight champion Marcelo Dominguez in Paris on October 14. Kobozev, 22-1 (17), rose from two knockdowns and rallied in the late rounds. His performance was so impressive, he was promised a shot at the winner of the unification bout between Dominguez and WBC champion Anaclet Wamba. For that bout, said Tommy Gallagher, Kobozev's manager-trainer, the reigning USBA 190-pound champion was to receive a career-high purse of $100,000.

Since Kobozev has been missing, the $12,000 in his bank account hasn't been touched, and his credit cards haven't been used. There have been no ransom notes. Police haven't found any connection between the fighter and the so-called Russian Mafia, nor have they linked Kobozev to another woman.

"You keep praying," Gallagher told THE RING. "You hope this kid is tied up somewhere. But the longer it goes ... "

–Steve Farhood

Kobozev: His success story is now a mystery

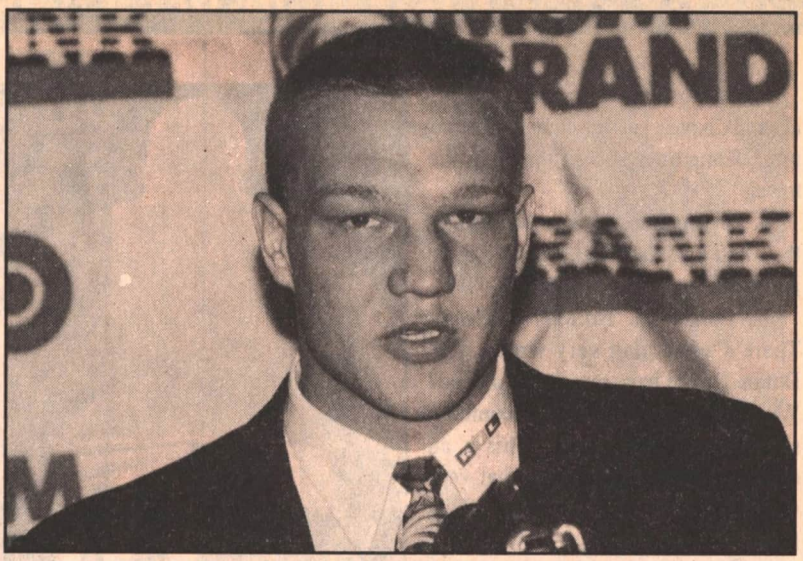
AXEL SCHULZ, WORLD-CLASS SPY

Heavyweight Axel Schulz recently told a German radio station that he had been forced by East Germany's notorious Stasi secret police into spying for them while he was a citizen of the communist country. Working under the code name "Markus," Schulz was an unofficial informer.

"There was no choice," said Schulz, who was first approached at age 16. "They blackmailed me in the classic way—either you help us or you can pack your bags."

Schulz said he passed on reports to the Stasi after trips to amateur tournaments in the West. "I never received any money or gifts," he said.

We wonder what he would've told them about the American fight judges after his loss to George Foreman.



Schulz was spy-high in East Germany

BOXING AND THE BURBS

While some promoters cling to traditional arenas set in the urban asphalt jungle, others seek their fortunes in the grassy suburbs, and sometimes even in suburban hotel ballrooms where the crowds munch seafood buffets while fists fly.

Who's got the right idea? It's instructive to look at a new three-year Southern California deal that hedges all bets.

The deal came about almost by accident. In early-1995, Forum Boxing had tentatively lined up a pay-per-view card featuring, among other Latin stars, Chiquita Gonzalez and Genaro Hernandez. But the only date that made sense was March 31, a night the Great Western Forum was putting on the NBA's Lakers.

So the Forum promoters looked down the freeway at the Arrowhead Pond in Orange County's Anaheim, which is home to the NHL's Mighty Ducks and the NBA's Clippers. The Forum and the Pond stitched together a one-night stand, which was titled "Mucho Machismo."

What happened next was a shocker: More than 12,000 fans showed up. After 12 years of promoting more than 20 cards a year, Forum Boxing had never broken into 11,000 territory. More often than not, it had limped in with crowds of less than 4,000.

"We definitely learned that boxing fans want to come out here," said Pond publicist John Nicoletti.

"Mucho Machismo encouraged us to look harder at a steady deal," agreed John Jackson, president of Forum Boxing. Thus the new contract was born. The Forum will move at least six of its boxing shows a year to the Pond, beginning with a card on February 5, 1996.

If it works, said Jackson, look for the Forum to stage even more fights out in the burbs.

–Ivan G. Goldman

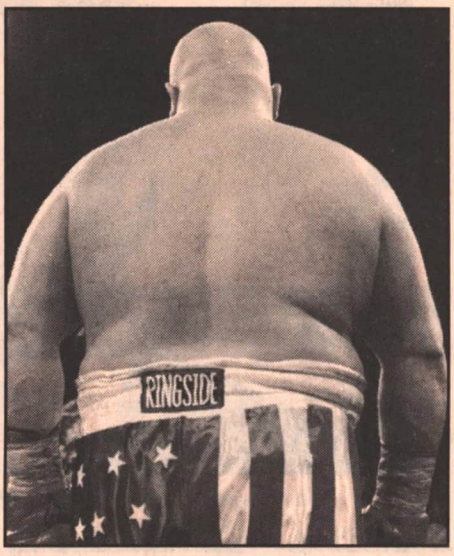
THE 10 KEENEST OBSERVATIONS GEORGE FOREMAN HAS MADE *OFF*-CAMERA

10. "Meldrick Taylor is so far ahead, Chavez has *no* chance of winning. His corner should throw in the towel."

9. "Tyson-Douglas is a mismatch of the *worst* kind. Somebody should go to *jail* for having made this fight."

8. "Forget this 'No Mas' nonsense. There's something very wrong with Duran. Did he have measles as a child? What about *gout?* Does the commission doctor test for *gout?* This is an outrage, an ugly conspiracy that very well may go all the way to the White House."

7. "Carbajal's been down twice. If the referee doesn't stop it, I'll climb through the ropes and stop it myself. Chiquita Gonzalez just might *kill* him."



*How could Foreman **not** be impressed by the Butterbean?*

6. "Tommy Morrison wasn't given a *chance* to come back. Four knockdowns isn't a big deal if you keep getting up. And so what if his eye was shut. He's got another one."

5. "*Of course* the winner of Bowe-Holyfield is the best heavyweight in the world. But the winner hasn't fought *me.* But I'd never fight these guys. They're far too tough, too young ... What was the question again, Jim?"

4. "If that Fan Man guy had been thinking, he'd have had a Meineke muffler on his paraglider. Then nobody would've known he was coming."

3. "There are more pounds on Butterbean than anyone else, so why isn't *he* considered the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in boxing? Let's see smart-ass Merchant comment on *that* one."

2. "You have to understand, I *let* Moorer hit me with every jab he threw. I *let* him test my chin with his powerpunches. I *let* him win every round. It was all part of a perfectly executed plan, which ended with my million-to-one knockout punch."

1. "Who's this Jones kid who announces when I'm not here? I could swear I called a fight of his with that bad-ass kid from Detroit. What was his name? I know I have it *somewhere.* Jim, hand me my notes. They're right there under that cheeseburger. No, not *that* cheeseburger ... "

HONORING BOXING'S QUIET MAN

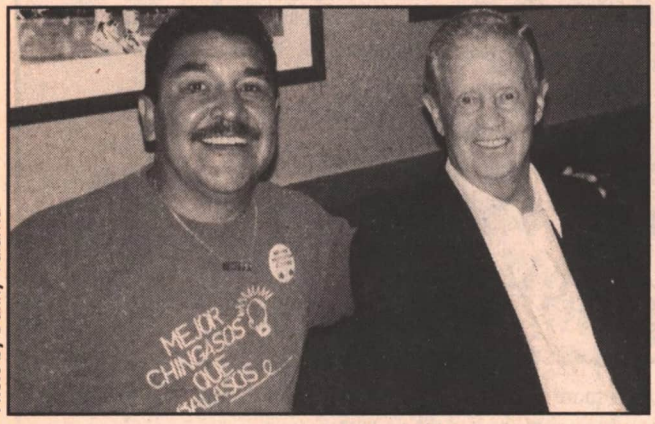


Photo by Danny Valdivia

Mando Ramos and Jackie McCoy

Most of the biggest figures in boxing have long since mastered the art of self-promotion. That's why it was particularly pleasing when Forum Boxing honored one of the Sweet Science's most dignified professors, Jackie McCoy.

Former longtime *Los Angeles Times* boxing writer John Hall described McCoy's fighters as being "managed and trained and taught by the most respected, best-liked, most honest, most humble, most dedicated, sweetest human being manager-trainer-cornerman doubtless in the history of boxing in Southern California."

The sentiment is echoed in this corner.

McCoy fought as a bantamweight in the '40s, and managed his first boxer, clubfighting lightweight Buddy Evatt, in 1953. He's handled five world champions, Don Jordan, Raul Rojas, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Mando Ramos, and Carlos Palomino, and a number of contenders, including Lou Filippo, Frankie Crawford, Monroe Brooks, Superfly Sandoval, Frankie and Tony Baltazar, and Cubanito Perez.

All that, and McCoy, who was born Warren Spaw (he changed his name so his mother wouldn't know he had taken up boxing), managed to work 27 years as a longshoreman.

Forum Boxing honored McCoy during its October 23 show at the Great Western Forum, and the next afternoon at a luncheon. "Jackie's one of the most unassuming gentlemen I've ever met," said Los Angeles promoter and ring announcer Danny Valdivia. "He was so taken aback by all this, when he got up to speak, it was the most I ever heard him say."

–Steve Farhood

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PARANOID DOESN'T MEAN ...

Nelson: "It's a plot, and they're all in on it"

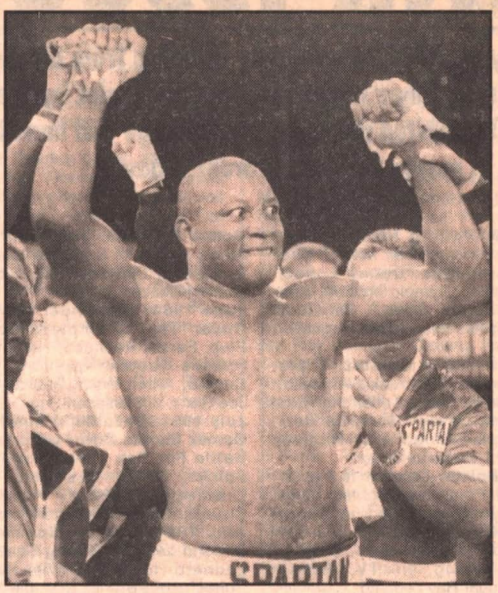
Label Azumah Nelson a conspiracy theorist.

Ghana's Nelson was upset by the fact that the government shutdown in November forced him to arrive in the USA later than he would have liked for his December date with WBC super featherweight champion Gabe Ruelas.

"This whole think smells like a plot by Ruelas' promoter and the American government," Nelson said. "My papers have been in order for weeks, but they insist on playing mind games with me to upset my training schedule. I've been fighting in the States for 13 years and never had any visa problems. This is all nonsense to upset me. But after I knock Ruelas out, I'm sure the U.S. government will be happy to see me leave."

As it turned out, Nelson beat Ruelas—and the government had no comment.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Bonecrusher: The new boxing boss in Carolina

South African light heavyweight **Ginger Tshabalala**, 29, was shot dead by suspected car hijackers at a Johannesburg taxi stand. Police said Tshabalala was picking up a friend when, at point-blank range, he was shot at. The gunmen then took his car. Tshabalala, who had been ranked 10th by THE RING, died shortly after being admitted to the hospital ... Arizona **Sen. John McCain's** Professional Boxing Safety Act was passed by the Senate. It now goes to the House. If the bill is passed, all U.S. boxing shows will have to be run under the supervision of a state athletic commission ... Former heavyweight champion **Bonecrusher Smith** has been named chairman of the newly created North Carolina Boxing Commission.

THE PUNCHLINE

"Now I'm wondering if he even has a muffler on his truck"

—Rock Newman on TVKO analyst George Foreman following the Bowe-Holyfield rematch

"I ran into [one-time opponent] Doug Jones in the men's room. I complimented him on his sharp-shooting, and he complimented me on my left hook to the calianis."

—former heavyweight contender George Chuvalo at the Veteran Boxers Association Ring 8 awards luncheon in New York City

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

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Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

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May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

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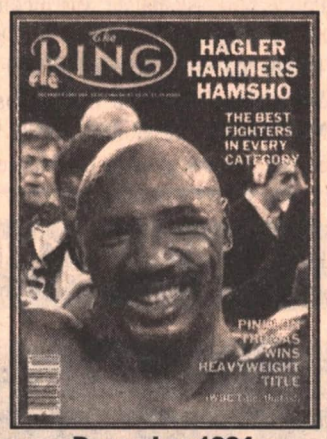
Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.



December 1984

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

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May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

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Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

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Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

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Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

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Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar

Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

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Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

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Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

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June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

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Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

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Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But THE RING Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

☐ Apr/80	☐ Oct/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Oct/88	☐ May/91	☐ Jan/94
	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
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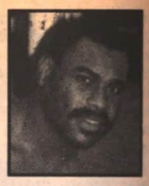
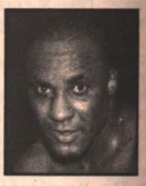
THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended December 7, 1995

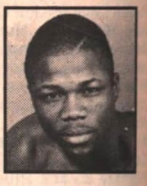


Oliver McCall
Heavyweight



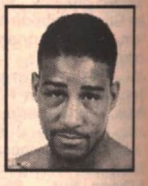
Mike McCallum
Light Heavyweight

Crisanto Espana
Welterweight



Charles Murray
Junior Welterweight

George Scott
Lightweight



Kennedy McKinney
Junior Featherweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *38-1*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *28-1*
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *42-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *36-1*
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *32-3*
6. **BRUCE SELDON** Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
7. **FRANK BRUNO** England *41-4 (WBC Champ)*
8. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Houston, TX *74-4*
9. **OLIVER McCALL** Chicago, IL *26-6*
10. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** Westerville, OH *24-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *27-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *25-4 (WBA Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA** France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *19-1-1 (WBC Interim Champ)*
6. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** Brooklyn, NY *22-1*
7. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *11-0*
8. **THOMAS HEARNS** Detroit, MI *55-4-1*
9. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *32-1*
10. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *11-1-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *18-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *48-2-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *26-4-2*
7. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
8. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *29-0*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *47-3*
10. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *35-4*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** England *42-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *31-3*
4. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES** Flint, MI *26-1*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-6*
7. **BRYANT BRANNON** Trenton, NJ *15-0*
8. **HENRY WHARTON** England *22-2-1*
9. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *40-9*
10. **RAY CLOSE** N. Ireland *21-3-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *98-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *27-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *33-1*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *35-5-1*
6. **JOE LIPSEY** Lansing, MI *25-0*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *26-0*
8. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *22-0*
9. **JULIAN JACKSON** Virgin Islands *51-4*
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *20-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *40-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PAUL VADEN**
   San Diego, CA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *55-2*
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *34-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *27-1*
6. **VINCENT PETTWAY**
   Baltimore, MD *38-5-1*
7. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *62-1*
8. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
   Lanham, MD *24-3-3*
9. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *29-2*
10. **WINKY WRIGHT**
    St. Petersburg, FL *32-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *35-1*
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *31-1*
6. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *28-1-2*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-0-1*
8. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *33-1*
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN**
   Ireland *26-1-1*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
    Orlando, FL *56-3*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *95-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *39-20-4*
5. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *69-3-2*
6. **SAMMY FUENTES**
   Hermosa Beach, CA *32-13-1*
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *35-3*
7. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY *28-4-2*
9. **JAN BERGMAN**
   South Africa *28-0*
10. **KHALID RAHILOU**
    France *25-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *19-0*
2. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *39-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *17-0*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *27-1*
6. **PHILIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
7. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *18-0*
8. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *23-1-1*
9. **LAMAR MURPHY**
   Miami, FL *18-1*
10. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
    Puerto Rico *38-4*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *38-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *32-1-1*
3. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *54-3-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *41-3*
5. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *30-1-2*
6. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *39-3-1*
7. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *21-1*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *22-0*
9. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *18-0-3 (WBA Champ)*
10. **JEFF FENECH**
    Australia *27-2-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *40-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *51-6 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *37-3*
4. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *20-0*
5. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela *32-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-1*
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR *25-5*
8. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *14-3*
9. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales *21-10-1*
10. **CHICO CASTILLO**
    Los Angeles, CA *19-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *39-0*
2. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *28-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *28-1-1*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *23-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *51-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *42-2-1*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *36-2*
8. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY *32-3-3*
9. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *18-0*
10. **JUNIOR JONES**
    Brooklyn, NY *37-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *35-2*
4. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-7-1*
5. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *4-0 (WBA Champ)*
6. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *29-1*
7. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *11-2-1*
8. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand *55-5-1*
9. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *16-0*
10. **JOHNNY ARMOUR**
    England *19-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *18-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *32-0-2*
3. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *38-6-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *12-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *20-0*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-5*
7. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *21-2*
8. **RICARDO VARGAS**
   Mexico *20-4-3*
9. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   Cahokia, IL *11-3*
10. **GERRY PENALOSA**
    Philippines *30-1-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *21-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *27-1*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *30-3-2*
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *39-5-1*
7. **ENRIQUE OROZCO**
   Mexico *29-4-1*
8. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *20-1*
9. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *29-1*
10. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
    Mexico *31-2*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *27-2-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *38-2*
4. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *45-4-4*
6. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *29-2*
7. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *29-4-1*
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN *15-2*
9. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
   Dominican Republic *16-4-1*
10. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
    Japan *21-2-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Lightweight
5. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Junior Welterweight
7. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Flyweight
8. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Junior Featherweight
10. **RIDDICK BOWE**
    Heavyweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

SURRENDER

This should be done in more dramatic fashion. Ideally, Vinny Vecchione would race into the office, grab me in a protective embrace, drag me away from the computer, and tell my editors, "That's it! The kid's had enough!" In the months that followed, I could always say that I really wanted to continue, but, hey, I could certainly understand how nobody wanted to see me take any more punishment.

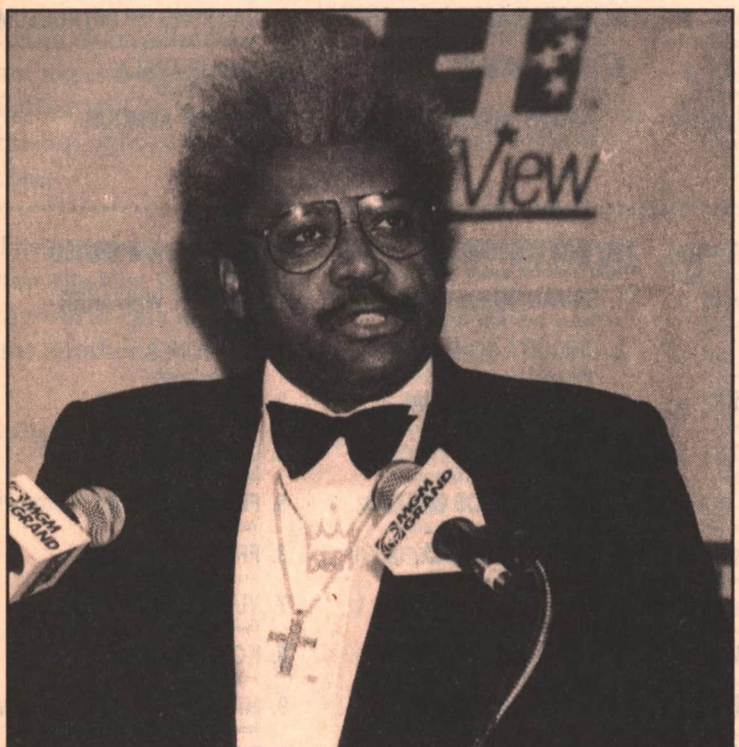
Unfortunately, I manage my own career, so the only way to put an end to my misery is to whimper, "*No mas*," throw in the towel myself, and thus give up any hope of saving face. I'll admit it: The boxing business has beaten me down and broken my spirit. Add my name to that mile-long list of those who have fallen victim to the big bad fight game, that serial killer of hope and promise.

Call me a starry-eyed romantic or a naive fool, but for a long time I actually thought some major changes for the better were possible in the Sweet Science. For years, I held out hope that everything from a restructuring of the way the sport is governed, to better media coverage, was going to happen one day. Now I'm wising up. Things *aren't* going to get any better in boxing. They'll probably even get worse. So, in some cases, I have resigned myself to finding the silver lining in the dark, menacing clouds that hang overhead. In other cases, because not even an entire crew of miners could find a trace of silver lining, I've decided to tolerate the situation as it is.

No more, though, am I going to wait anxiously for the day that …

Don King Is Out Of Our Hair: This time, The Don didn't knock out the government's court case with a clean counterpunch, but he still managed to eek out a technical draw. That means King remains on his throne and the feds are forced to plot yet another new fight plan for the next rematch.

Good luck.



Long live the King? Maybe it's time to acknowledge that Don King, boxing's most powerful promoter, is here to stay. In bouts vs. King, the federal government is 0-for-forever.

Cats wish they had as many lives as King. But I'm not complaining anymore. In fact, I'm starting to think boxing's balance of power is a lot like that of the Middle East. King may be, as George Foreman once said, the Saddam Hussein of boxing. But get rid of Saddam and the region's other tyrants, suddenly unchecked, become more arrogant than they are now. No matter what else he does, King consistently puts on the best cards, and the thought of mismatch-masters Arum and Duva controlling the game by themselves is pretty frightening. No more King would probably mean no more fight cards with four world title fights on them, no more quality Showtime shows, and no more chances to see the likes of Ricardo Lopez and Frankie Randall.

The King isn't dead, so, what the hell, long live the King.

There Is Only One Champion Per Division: A few years ago, there were rumors that the WBA and WBC might merge in a effort to run the IBF out of business. That never happened, and before you knew it, the WBO, WBF, IBC, and a whole bunch of other crazy letter combinations started appearing like new, more drug-resistant strains of a horrible virus. These renegade ruling bodies can't possibly survive, can they? You bet they can, especially when there's always an ESPN2 around to broadcast the WBF's redneck rumbles

from some part of the country that looks like the setting for a *Deliverance* sequel.

From now on, though, no more complaints out of me. If it's impossible to know who the true champion is, so be it. When you think about it, college football suffers from the same dilemma. With one big difference, of course: College football's titlists are determined by a more reputable group of alphabet organizations.

AP and CNN/USA Today.

HBO Fires "Broadcaster" Foreman: Big George's lack of preparation, limited knowledge of the fighters, and penchant for outrageous commentary is poisoning the entire recipe, yet Foreman and the HBO honchos think he's the secret ingredient that gives the network's telecasts their flavor. Little do they realize that too many kooks spoil the soup.

Apparently, the HBO decision-makers are so used to being called geniuses for everything they do that they figure we critics, and not Foreman, must be crazy. So maybe it's time to stop getting aggravated and start viewing HBO's Championship Boxing more as the comedy show it obviously wants to be. Stop expecting journalistic integrity and start appreciating HBO's "take my fight—please" approach. Stop thinking of the telecasts as boxing that's live on Saturday night and start thinking of it as *Saturday Night Live* boxing. All that's missing, after all, is a musical guest.

Then again, Foreman is pretty good at tooting his own horn.

The Sport Gets Better Media Coverage: National sports magazines have convinced themselves the same recycled Tyson and Foreman angles are forever what the public wants, no matter how interesting Oscar De La Hoya is as a person or how accomplished Pernell Whitaker is as a fighter. Though newspapers cover boxing more frequently, they're not much better. Newspaper sports departments profess to always be interested in human-interest stories, but when it comes to the *boxing* human-interest stories, the humans have to weigh at least 220 pounds.

With such a built-in bias against lighter-weight fighters—one that even extends to the world of advertising, where a stooge like Peter McNeeley lands national TV commercials and a Gabe Ruelas remains a stranger to most of America—things will never change. So my new attitude is that I'm going to start having fun playing detective, scouring the sports pages in search of that one line of agate type that tells me who won what I thought—how silly of me—was a major bout. Looking for boxing results in the paper has actually given me a new appreciation for Roger Bacon, the man who invented the magnifying glass.

A Federal Commission Is Established: Following the travesty of James Toney W 12 Dave Tiberi in February 1992, Delaware Senator William Roth co-sponsored a wide-ranging bill that would have established federal control over boxing. The bill never came to a vote. With a Republican Congress in power—one that strongly favors less government regulation, not more—it is unlikely that any bill calling for a significant government takeover of the sport will ever reach the floor of the House or Senate. And even if, by some miracle, it did, it would be an awfully long time before we'd see such a bill passed and changes implemented. The gridlock in Congress makes the movement of cars in Manhattan the day after Thanksgiving look like the Indy 500.

For the near-future, the not-so-near future, and the distant future, boxing is going to remain under the control of the world alphabet organizations and the state athletic commissions.

That towel that just went sailing past you? It belongs to me. ■

Does the on-air work of George Foreman hurt HBO's credibility? Jim Lampley and Larry Merchant can never be sure what Big George might say next.

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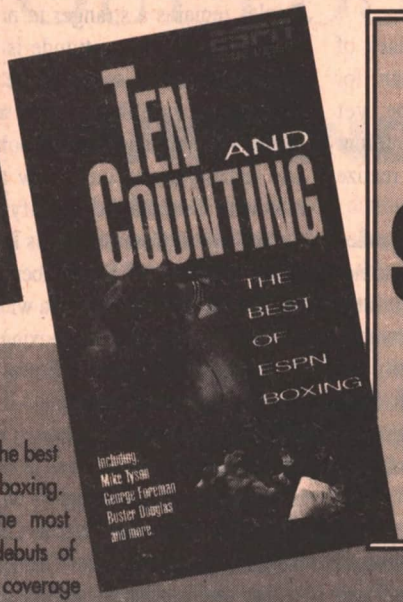

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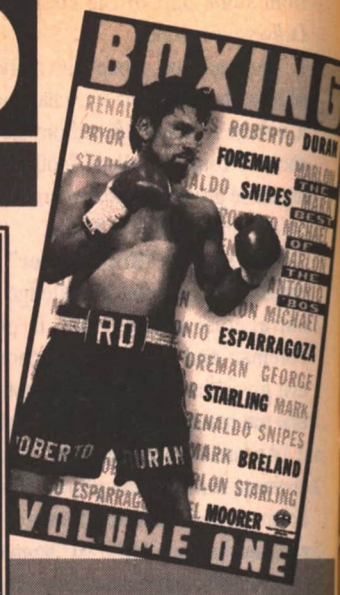

TEN AND COUNTING: THE BEST OF ESPN BOXING
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The RING®

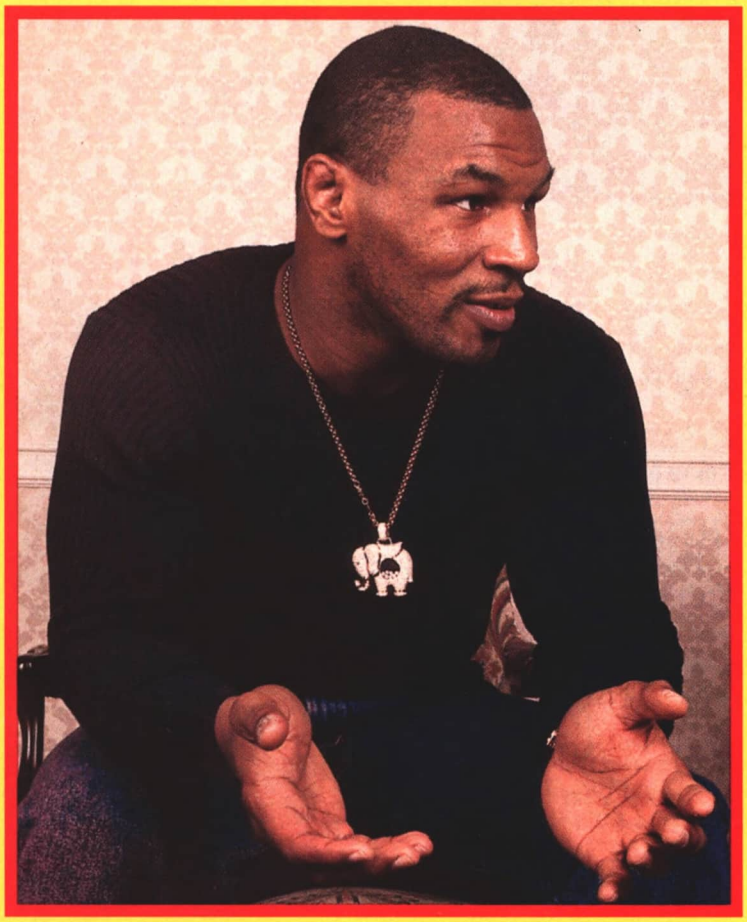
INTERVIEWS

MIKE TYSON

"I Can't Be Denied"

Photos by Bill Apter and Jason Ross Lavin

Philadelphia seemed to Mike Tyson's liking. After a media-friendly sparring session 10 days before "Iron Mike's" rescheduled bout vs. Buster Mathis Jr. at the CoreStates Spectrum, the former heavyweight champion casually chatted with the press. And one day later, in a private interview with THE RING Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood at the Marriott Hotel, Tyson spoke for an hour.



In case you haven't noticed, Tyson gives exclusive hour-long interviews about as often as Don King spends just-the-boys weekends with Bob Arum and Dan Duva.

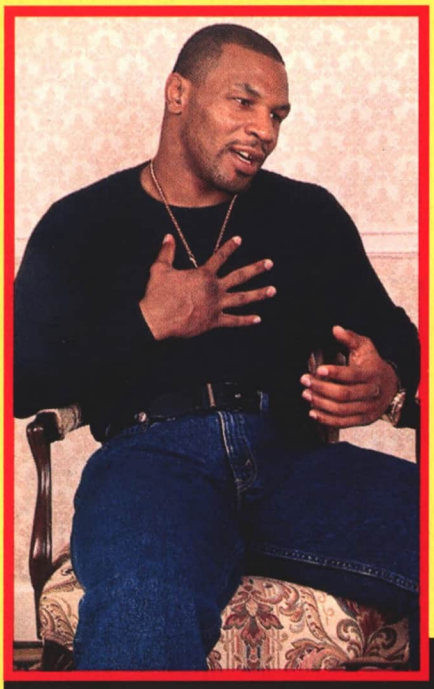
As was the case when Tyson was interviewed by THE RING toward the end of his three-year incarceration for rape, the heavyweight was initially quiet and withdrawn. Worse than that, his beeper kept sounding, and the phone kept ringing. But he warmed to the occasion, especially when the conversation moved away from boxing and toward philosophy and his out-of-the-ring experiences.

Reports Farhood: "It was dark and quiet when we arrived at the well-guarded hotel suite, and that seemed to fit Tyson's mood. He didn't seem particularly depressed, but he came across as a pessimist who is sorely lacking in self-esteem. Moreover, he's fatalistic. He couldn't think of anything that gave him joy. Boxing at least provides relief.

"There's little doubt that even after a four-year layoff, Tyson will regain at least a portion of the heavyweight title. But the bigger fight is to make sense of his life. And there's no guarantee he's going to win."

The Ring: You're an old man—you're 29. The first time we talked you were a teenager. In that time, your life has changed a helluva lot more than mine. Do you ever wish it hadn't changed, or that you turned out to be a regular working stiff with a regular life?

Mike Tyson: Nothing surprises me. Whatever happens, happens for a reason. We don't know why, but it happens. You



"Most people I meet are afraid of me. I don't know, maybe I'd be afraid also"

just come up with your own conclusions. [What's happened to me] entitles me to become more independent, to have better judgment and better decision-making. It's easy not to assert yourself when you depend on other people.

The Ring: What about a regular working man's life? Does that have any attraction?

MT: I never wanted to be that way. That's why I trained hard to become a champion.

The Ring: You've always been fascinated with the fighters of yesteryear. As a fan, what do you think you'd think of Mike Tyson?

MT: I don't know. Most people I meet are afraid of me. I don't know, maybe I'd be afraid also. Fans read things that are inaccurate. [In the old days] I think the fans loved the fighters. I believe there was a different kind of media. The atmosphere ... Damon Runyon. It was a different era, a different mentality, a different agenda. Back in the turn of the century, everybody was a hero. Even alcoholic fighters or athletes or people who abused their wives or kids. Athletes in general, Ty Cobb and those guys, Joe Gans, they were heavy gamblers and they had abusive problems at home with their spouses, but we never heard because the fans weren't interested in that.

The Ring: How do you explain the public's fascination with you? It seems it's deeper now than it's ever been. Does it confuse you?

MT: I just don't understand it sometimes. I just go with the flow. Before, I used to always be caught up in being successful. I'm beyond that stage. I just like being humble and not get involved in any of that crap.

The Ring: Is it hard to be the way you want to be, given the craziness around you?

MT: Yeah. Incredible.

The Ring: Watching you at press conferences and in interviews, people often ask you questions and then seem disappointed in your answers, which are often short and not very detailed. Are you reluctant to show certain sides of yourself?

MT: I don't want to share my personal life with anybody. I'm bored with interviews. The majority of the ones I've done never did me justice or did any good toward me. I'm just not hung up on the stardom. I'm just not caught up on people jumping on my back, patting me on the back. That's not what I'm interested in. I've been doing this since I was 14 years old.

The Ring: If you never had to do one of these interviews again, you'd be happy?

MT: I don't know. I can't say that as a serious statement. Everything has its good points. Sometimes there's something you want to say. There just isn't much I want to say.

The Ring: You've said that you want to be on more covers of THE RING than anyone else. Why is that important to you?

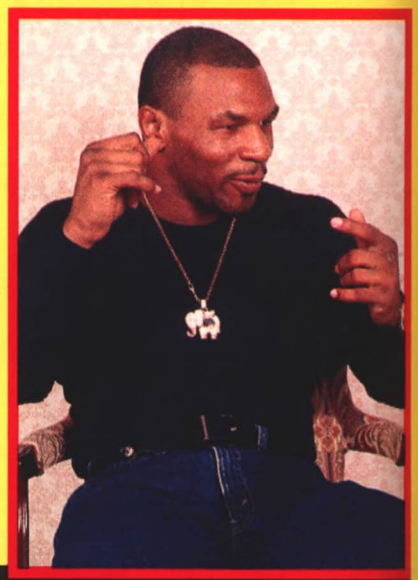
MT: Sporadically, my ego will flare up. It's not a constant thing. I'm not some kind of egomaniacal type of guy. Now and then my ego flares up. When you think about it, even though I'm a fighter, I've never really done anything with fighting. You see me on the rag magazines or some other kind of magazines, but I've never done anything or offered anything to the sport to give me the stature that I have now. I've never really done anything tremendous for the sport. I just want to do something.

The Ring: Your life has never been average. When was it most crazy?

MT: The time in jail ... home being on probation ... this is crazy. It takes away a lot of your dignity. You start looking at yourself different. Sometimes I feel like everyone hates me. It's like that phobia, paranoia. I don't like to be around people, and I think everyone has a motive, an agenda that's not in my best interests. I become sometimes hostile, so I try to avoid those situations and not be in a particular place where I feel that way about people.

The Ring: Isn't that unhealthy?

MT: You have to understand the horrific s___ that I've been through. Let's



"I've never really done anything tremendous for the sport. I just want to do something"

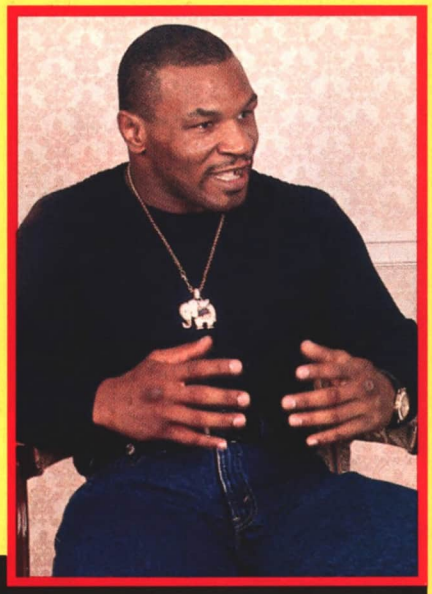
bypass prison, but think about the things that happened to me: People I trust screwed me out of money; think about being on Barbara Walters and being humiliated at that particular age. Things happen in general—the Mitch Green situation. At that particular time, none of that stuff affected me. None of that stuff affected me until I got older and realized what really was going on. In retrospect I said, "Oh, s___."

The Ring: Did it take prison to give you the time to reflect on what had happened?

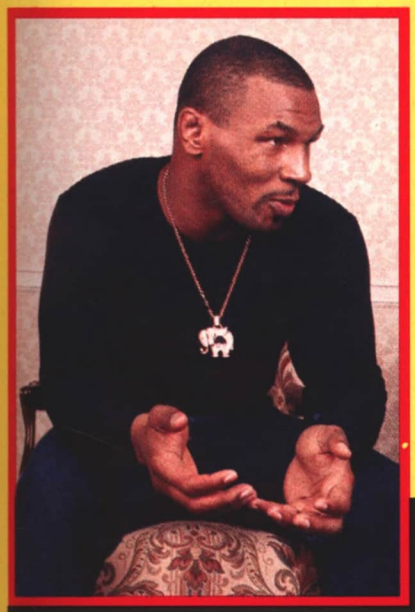
MT: Yeah, that's 'cause I couldn't avoid it. It's a horrible feeling being alone with your thoughts. You see that ugly picture of yourself. You can't avoid it. Out here you can avoid it; you can go on a date, go to the movies. You go to bed, you wake up. You may deal with it for probably 10 minutes of a 24-hour day. Isn't that incredible—10 minutes of a 24-hour day! But [in prison] it's just constantly on your mind. You sit down and you read, but it just flares up. And you understand the angles that were placed and how the puzzles were put together to put you in that position. And you say, "Wow! How could that have happened?" Then you open up the door to your cell and go out into the day room and you're around some other problems and you say, "What is this all about?"

The Ring: From the time you went to prison to your release, did it all go by just like that (snaps fingers)?

MT: I was always reflecting, I was always planning, "This is what I'm gonna do when I get out." But when the time came, a month before I was to get out, it was like stagefright. Just like when fighters get in the ring. They planned for six weeks, two months, what they're gonna do, and they get in the ring and they freeze. That's what happened. The month came and I said, "What the hell am I gonna do when I get out?"



"Life has become a burden to me now. I'm just not a happy type of guy"



"I find myself more nervous now than in the beginning of my career or when I was champion. Maybe it's a slight insecurity"

The Ring: It does seem everyone you come in contact with indeed has a personal agenda. How many people in your life right now would you say spend time with you or remain friends without their own agendas?

MT: I don't like to make that statement, because I made a similar statement before and some people got offended. Being away like that ... I sometimes lose a high opinion of myself. You just don't feel too cool after being in those situations. In retrospect, you deal with what happened, but you lose a lot of self-esteem.

The Ring: Is boxing something that makes you feel good about yourself and helps your self-esteem?

MT: I love boxing. That's what I do. And I hate to even say it, but it comes relatively easy. I don't know. There's a lot of things going on in your mind. I just don't want to deal with people. But it's never that extreme that I'll be a recluse.

The Ring: Boxing aside, what else makes you feel good about yourself?

MT: I don't have no other outlet besides fighting. *(pauses)* I always pray, I read the Koran. But that doesn't help because I don't believe in myself the way I truly should—about me as a man. People don't understand that people in my position ... I'm having pretty much a hangup with that, with me, dealing with my life. I just don't believe anybody. They say this ... I just don't believe 'em. Sometimes I'm in a situation where my girlfriend says, "I love you, I love you," and it just doesn't affect me. And I say, "Well, thank you, I love you, too," but it's not really in my *heart*. And I go out of my way to do things for her in a grand fashion, but it's not in my heart to accept it.

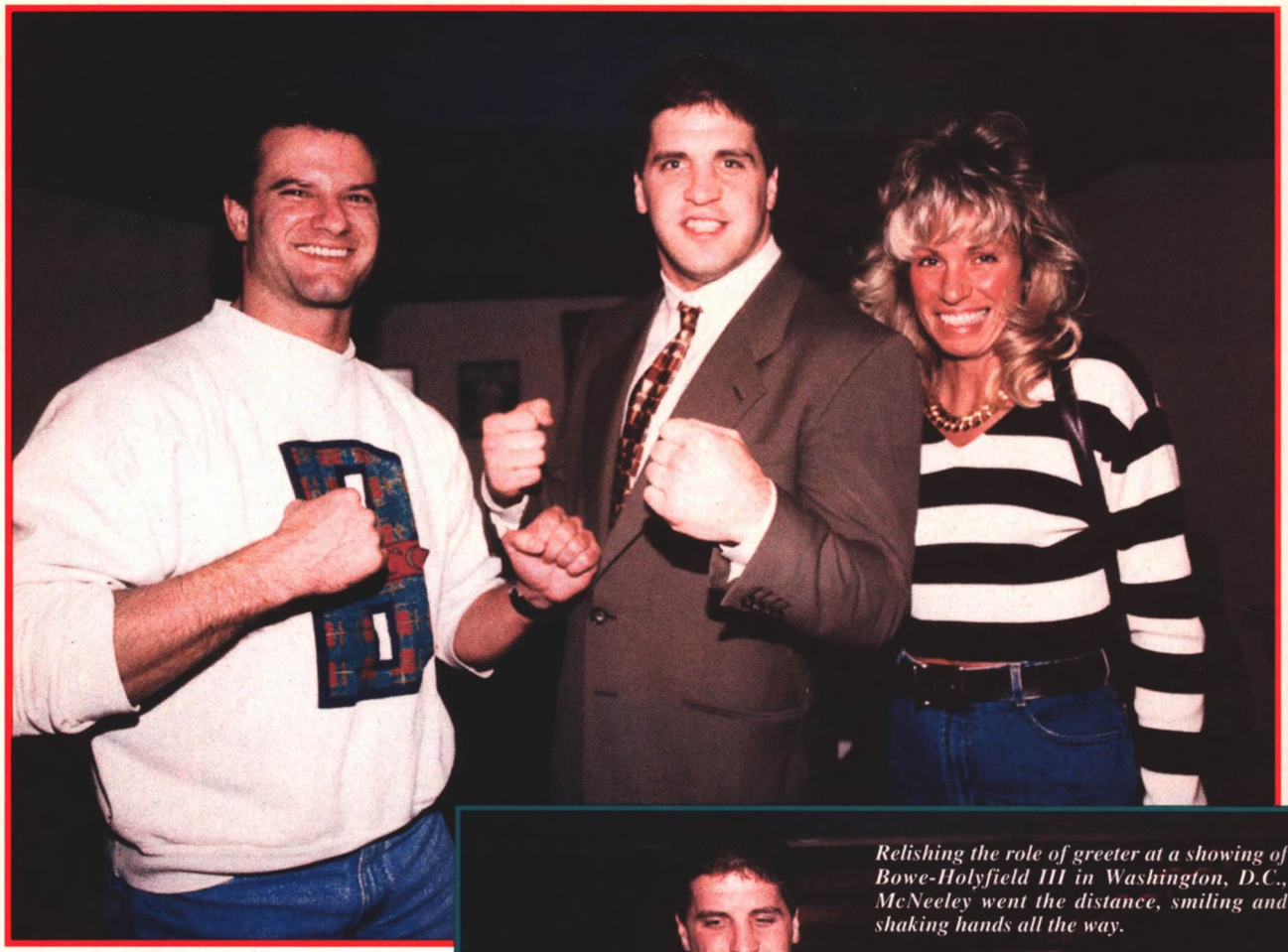
The Ring: Is your heart cold or does it just have a lot of barriers in front of it?

MT: Barriers ... maybe a combination of both.

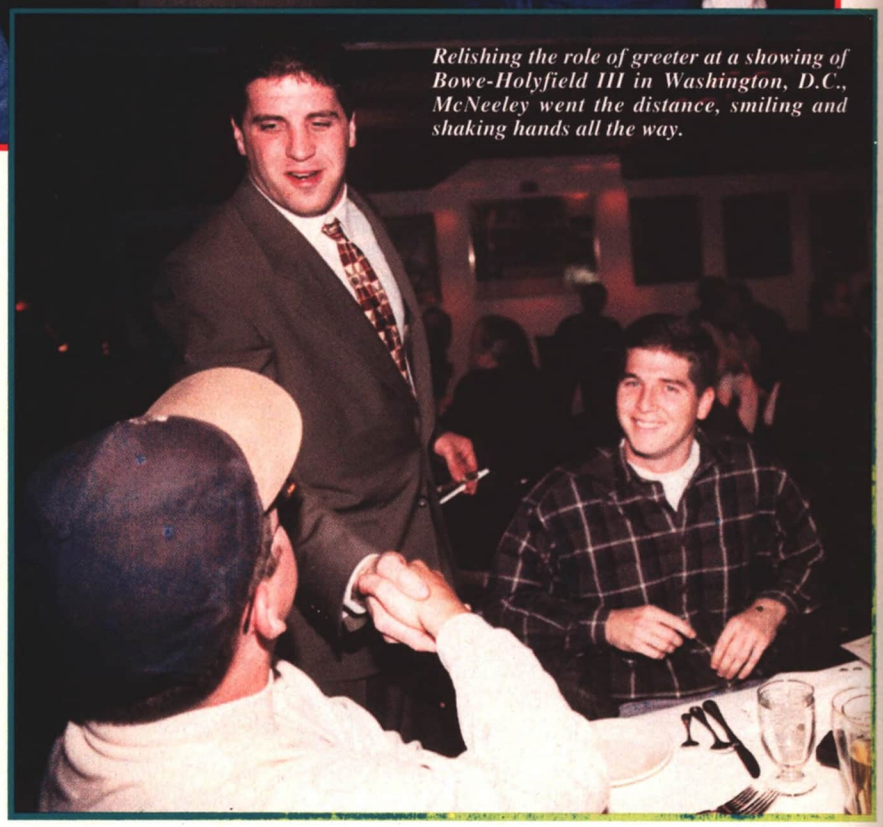
The Ring: Do you ever wish it wasn't like that?

MT: Sometimes it's comforting.

(Continued on page 68)



Photos by Mario Tama



Relishing the role of greeter at a showing of Bowe-Holyfield III in Washington, D.C., McNeeley went the distance, smiling and shaking hands all the way.

Say CHEESE

(Extra Cheese)

For Peter McNeeley, It's All About The Dough

By John Scheinman

It was the night of Bowe-Holyfield III, and Peter McNeeley was working the room at Fran O'Brien's Steak House at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. Endlessly flanked by men and women for souvenir photos, shaking hands, dapper and cut in a handsome dark suit, McNeeley never allowed a beaming smile to leave his face.

Photo courtesy of Pizza Hut

McNeeley and Vecchione extended their celebrity status by filming a popular Pizza Hut commercial. Never let it be said the fighter and manager can't laugh at themselves.

"You're doing a shot with us!" one drunken reveler kept insisting.

"You took it to him!" said another, thrusting his right hand into McNeeley's.

In a corner of the cozy dining room that on this night extended into the Touchdown Club, where the Washington Redskins and other D.C. football organizations hold award banquets, a waiter snugly addressed a table of customers: "Have you met the fighter yet? I served him a complimentary dinner and he didn't leave me anything."

A half-hour before Bowe-Holyfield, McNeeley accepted a fat cigar from an admirer, and a fetching brunette in a clingy sweater crouched down next to his chair.

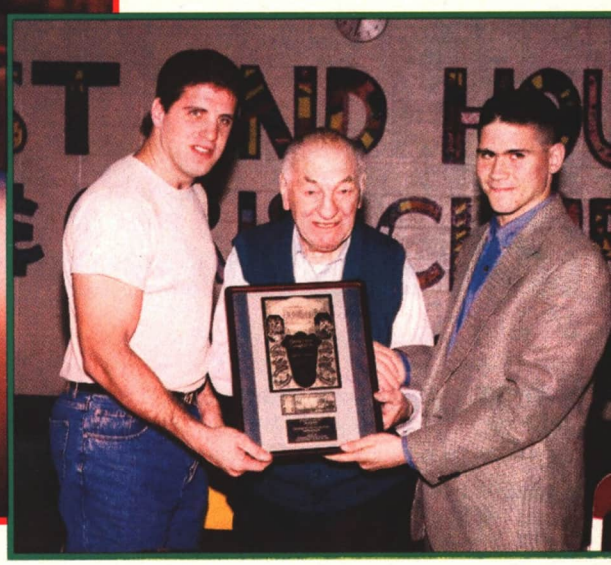
"Could you sign an autograph for my brother?" she cooed. Flustering, McNeeley obliged. The woman flashed a deep smile and breathily whispered thank you. McNeeley turned to a group at the table behind him and his grin stretched wider. "Whoa!"

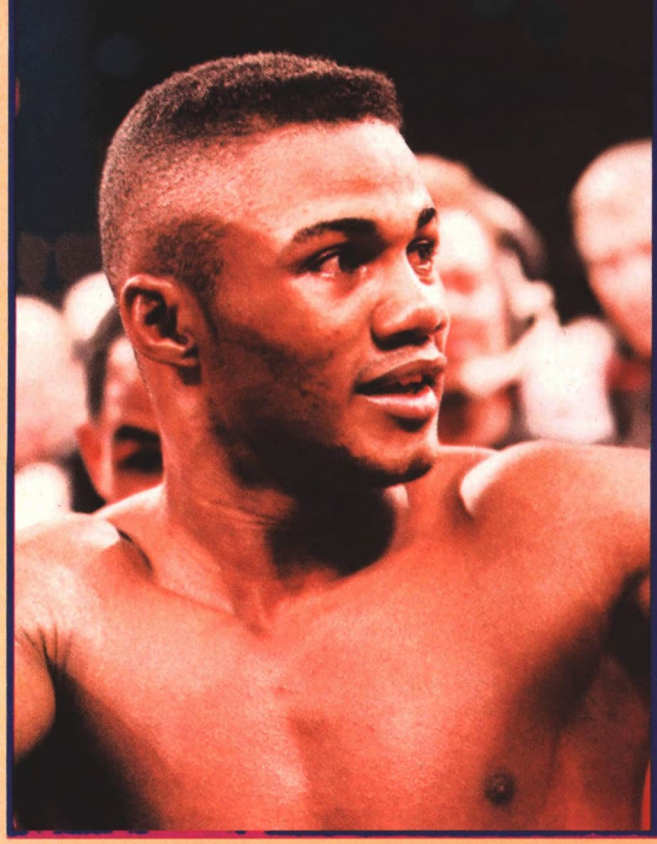
These are the salad days for the 27-year-old McNeeley, who, in one incredible Only-In-America meeting with Mike Tyson, went from obscurity, knocking out total strangers in the high school gyms of New England, to lovable fixture in the

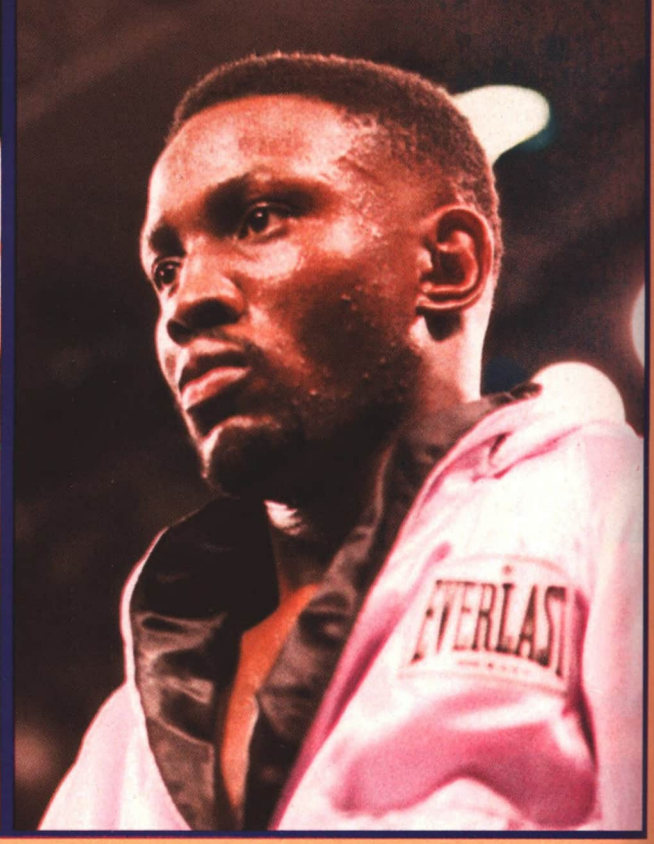
(Continued on page 70)

Photos by Angie Carlino

Featured on the first boxing card at the FleetCenter in Boston, McNeeley kayoed yet another forgettable foe, Mike Sam, in two rounds (left). "The Hurricane" poses with Hy Diamond, who, in 1928, fought on the first card at the Boston Garden, and unbeaten middleweight Dana Rosenblatt (below).







THE TRINIDAD-WHITAKER SUPERFIGHT

A Welter Showdown Worth The Wait

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

By Steve Farhood

Don't let Pernell Whitaker fool you like he fools all those welterweights who think they're one punch away from knocking "Sweet Pea" into a different pod. Just because Whitaker's never been in a tough fight doesn't mean he isn't tough. Remember, he's always been the little guy, whether growing up in the gritty navy town of Norfolk, Virginia, or growing into the world's best fighter. And he's plenty mentally tough, too, having survived broken hands and bad decisions galore.

Whitaker painted his jab onto Rodriguez' face (left), then made sure to follow with powerpunches (below). As brilliant as he has been, the kayo certainly didn't hurt his image.

As much as anything else, it's been that toughness, which sometimes manifests itself as self-confidence, that has allowed Whitaker a lengthy and essentially flawless championship run. Whitaker is so cocksure, he doesn't bother watching other fighters. He depends on his wife for scouting reports.

When it comes to boxing, he wants to know only one thing: What fight is most likely to strengthen his claim to the mythical title of best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world? Said trainer Ronnie Shields of Sweet Pea's last two opponents, "Whitaker was bored with Gary Jacobs [whom he outpointed over 12 rounds], and he knew Jake Rodriguez [a sixth-round kayo victim] was only a junior welterweight."

Such sentiment is soon going to change. After his most recent victory, Whitaker found himself sharing the spotlight at the postfight press conference with fellow 147-pound champion Felix Trinidad. He definitely wasn't bored—nor was anyone else.

When one side of the room began waving Puerto Rican flags and hailing Trinidad with a chant of "Tito! Tito! Tito!" (his nickname), the other side quickly responded with "Sweet Pea! Sweet Pea! Sweet Pea!" It briefly turned into a great taste/less filling shouting match. That made Whitaker smile.

"He's one of the best fighters, pound-for-pound, in the world," Whitaker said of Trinidad. "He's one of boxing's stars, but he's 22. He's a baby now, and he has to come to the master."

"[Trinidad] has to get released from Don King," Lou Duva, Whitaker's co-manager, said of the promotional problems blocking a Whitaker-Trinidad bout. "That's the bigger fight. And when he does, let's sign the contract!"

Duva emphasized his point by pounding the podium, and the *entire room* began a chant of "Duva! Duva! Duva!"

When it was his turn, Trinidad, through a translator, said, "I'm no kid. That's what Hector Camacho said about me, and you saw what happened to him. That's what's going to happen to Pernell Whitaker."

We firmly recommend that Sweet Pea not depend on his wife this time.

***

On November 18, at the Convention Center in Atlantic City, an HBO-televised doubleheader featuring WBC welterweight champion Whitaker and IBF champion Trinidad produced the promoters' desired results. Defending for the fifth time,

Whitaker crushed recent sparring partner Rodriguez, and Trinidad, making his seventh defense, steamrolled mandatory contender Larry Barnes. Perceived by some as brilliant but boring, Whitaker turned puncher and scored a kayo. In his bout, Trinidad, who has won in a number of ways, turned Arguello-like assassin. Promoters concerned with hyping a Whitaker-Trinidad matchup couldn't have had employed in preparing for his previous bouts vs. Julio Cesar Vasquez and Jacobs.

"He knew Jake was a junior welterweight," said Shields, "and even though Pete [Whitaker's nickname] isn't a power-puncher, people were gonna say, 'You're the best fighter in the world. Let's see you kayo a junior welterweight.'"

Long gone is the Sweet Pea who soured fans by circling the ring and fighting so cautiously, he made Hector Camacho look like a kamikaze pilot. The change, however, may not have been optional. As Shields points out, "Pete doesn't have the legs of a 24-year-old anymore." At the opening bell, Whitaker walked impudently to the 30-year-old Rodriguez, jabbing his way into his comfort zone and winning every round in yet another of his prime time how-to clinics. Though Rodriguez carries the reputation of a rough-and-tumble type, "The Snake" was void of venom. As it turned out, he was far easier on Sweet Pea than either Vasquez or Jacobs had been.

"I definitely give him an A," Shields said of Whitaker. "Everything I told him to do, he went out and did it. The jab was gonna be the key, that and bodypunching."

Whitaker, 37-1-1 (16), was far more workmanlike than usual, his playfulness surfacing only after the bell ending the second round, when he tapped Rodriguez on the butt. He was brilliantly accurate with his punches (61 percent), raking Rodriguez with one-twos and counter lefts. For his part, Rodriguez, 27-4-2 (7), landed a couple of wide lefts, but consistent with his dismal knockout percentage, he carried the power of a lightweight, not a welterweight, or even a junior welterweight.

In the sixth, Rodriguez, having been weakened by a steady body attack, sagged to the ropes after a pair of right hooks connected flush. Another hook and a left dropped the challenger to his knees. He rose at the seven-count of referee Frank Cappuccino (USA), then absorbed several bodyshots until a right to the side downed him again. This time, he picked himself up

(Continued on page 72)

Barnes dipped and dodged throughout, but Trinidad eventually found his target (above). This photo, however, suggests the Puerto Rican survived a rough patch or two (right).

asked for better results. The show ran like an infomercial.

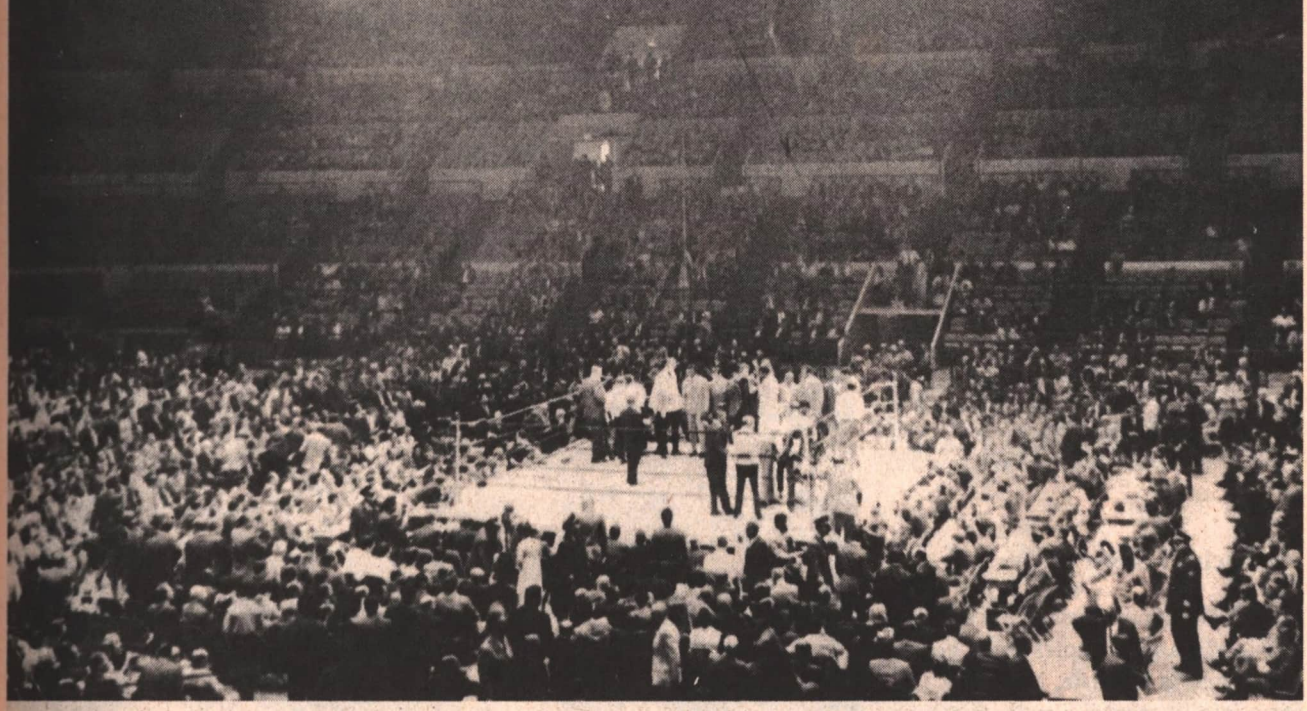
As we went to press, a Whitaker-Trinidad showdown was in the hands of the courts. Trinidad and his father and trainer, Felix Sr., have split from manager Yamil Chade and are suing King for their promotional independence. If a Florida judge rules that their contract is invalid, look for the dream match, to be promoted by Main Events and Square Ring, before half the year is out. If King wins in court (which, if you haven't noticed, he's wont to do), "that's it," acknowledged HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella. Whitaker will then settle for WBA champion Ike Quartey, who, according to Shields, is more dangerous than Trinidad, and Tito will entertain himself with the leftover welterweights from King's stable.

Before a crowd of 5,112 at the Convention Center, the 31-year-old Whitaker, 147, Norfolk, Virginia, faced his third consecutive southpaw in Rodriguez, 146¼, Brentwood, New York, whom he

SPECIAL SECTION

A TALE OF 10 CITIES

When Boxing Was King Of The Neighborhood



There was a time when America's great boxing cities were New York and Philadelphia and Los Angeles and Chicago, and not Las Vegas and Atlantic City. There was a time when promoters paid rent to an arena, willing to gamble that the live gate would justify the expenditure, instead of receiving site fees from casinos. There was a time when clubshows thrived, arenas were known as "The Bucket Of Blood," and promoters were nicknamed "War-A-Week." And there was a time when the big fights were held at ballparks, or at least hot, smoky arenas that smelled of boxing, and sweated it, too.

That time has passed. Today, there are major cities, such as San Francisco, Atlanta, and even New York, that have been virtually boxing-free for years. As casinos proliferate at an incredible rate, live boxing is moving further away from the hard-core fans. What better reason, then, to look back at the glory days, when boxing was an integral part of the urban landscape, and crosstown or ethnic rivalries drew fans by the thousand?

THE RING has selected 10 great American boxing cities and assigned writers from those cities to chronicle the history of boxing. It wasn't easy narrowing the field to 10, and we regret lacking the room to include such metropolises as Miami, Seattle, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, and Buffalo. But we don't think you'll argue that the cities we chose, which are represented in no particular order, have unique and special boxing heritages.

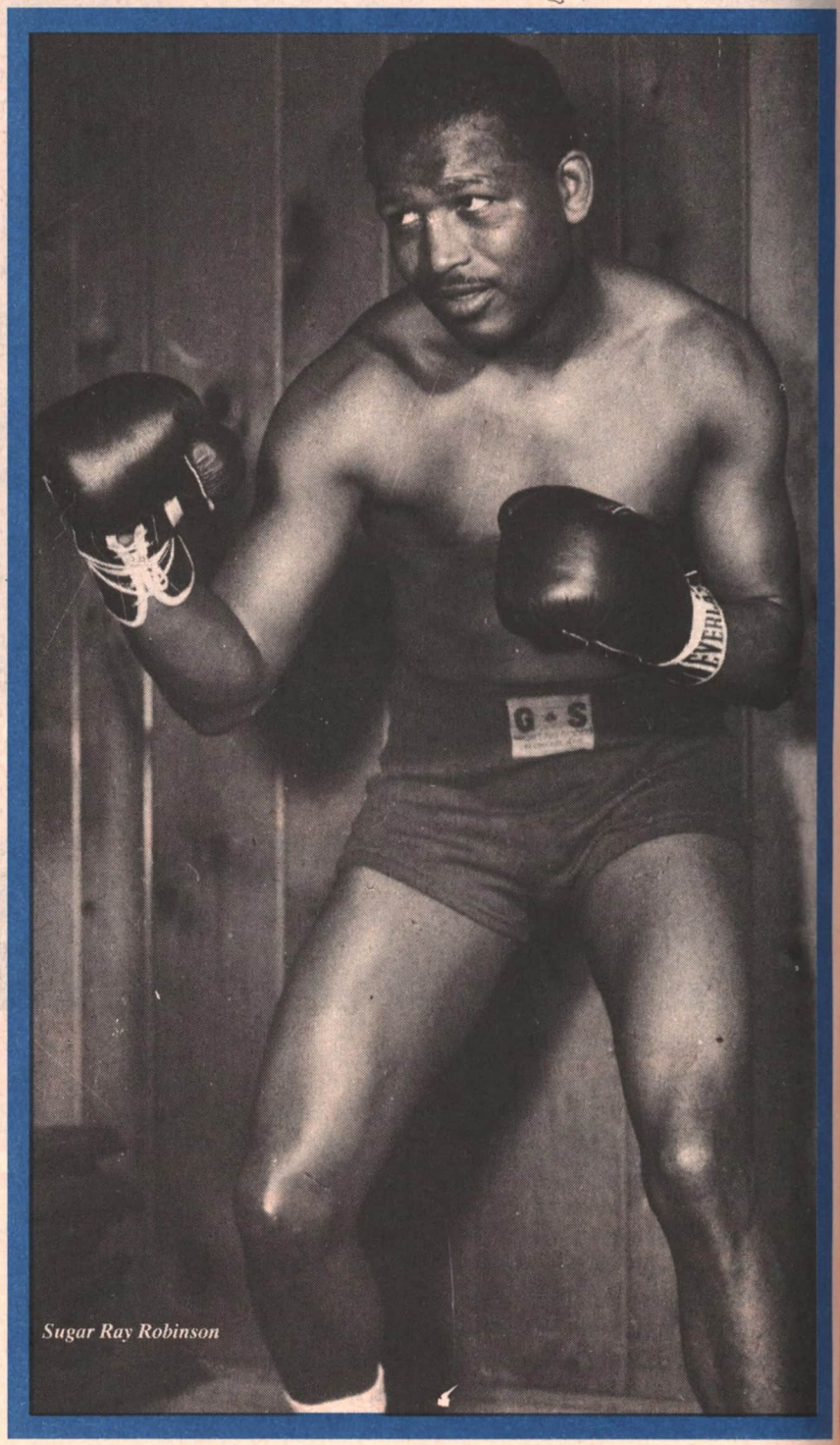
NEW YORK

The Top 10 Of New York

1. Sugar Ray Robinson
2. Benny Leonard
3. Tony Canzoneri
4. Jack Britton
5. Gene Tunney
6. Johnny Dundee
7. Maxie Rosenbloom
8. Terry McGovern
9. Joe Lynch
10. Jake LaMotta

The Best Fight

Joe Louis KO 1 Max Schmeling, *Yankee Stadium, June 22, 1938*: On the eve of World War II, a prize fight transfixed the world. Eighty-thousand screaming fans witnessed, in a most dramatic way, the symbolic triumph of good over evil, as well as the birth of a boxing legend. This is the one they'll be talking about 500 years from now.

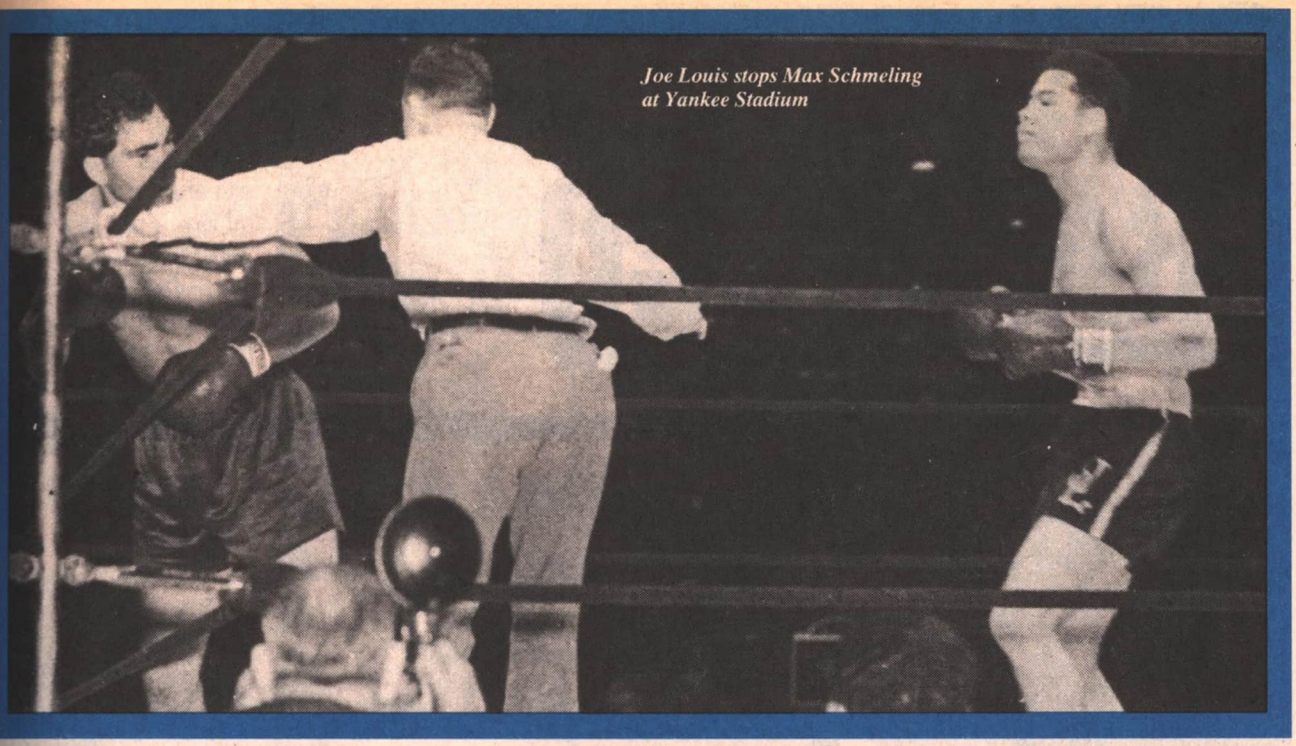


Sugar Ray Robinson

By Michael Silver

In 1920, with the passage of the Walker Law legalizing professional boxing throughout the state, New York City came into its own as a truly great fight town. The energy, exuberance, ambition, and creativity of the world's greatest city found its way into every aspect of the sport.

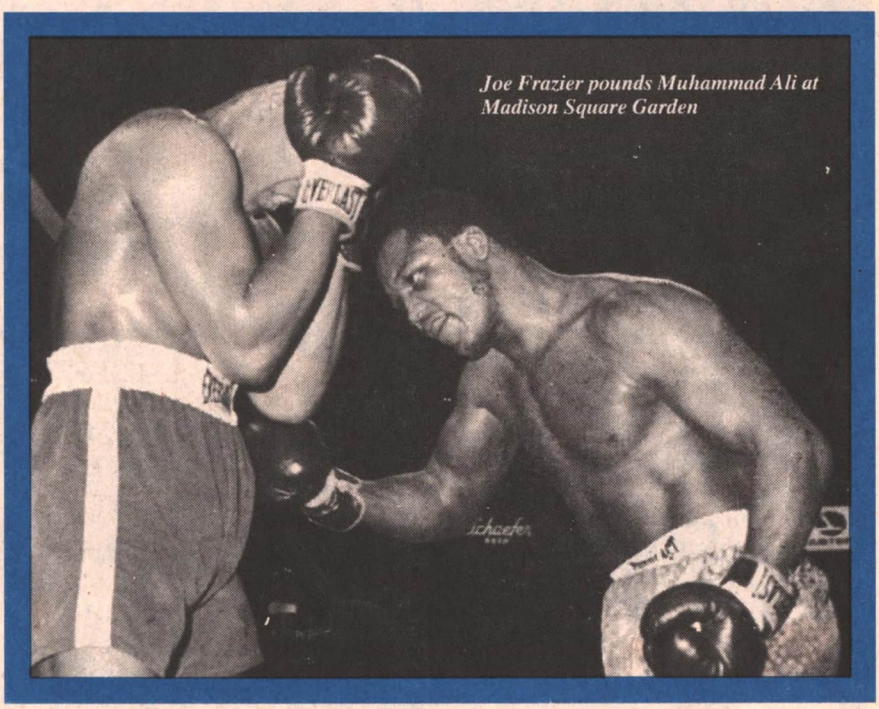
New York City was headquarters for legendary promoter Tex Rickard and his able successor, "Uncle" Mike Jacobs. During the golden age of New York boxing, the city had more fighters, gyms, and neighborhood arenas than any other metropolis. At times there were as many as a dozen shows in the city on a single night. The depth of talent was enormous, and true



Joe Louis stops Max Schmeling at Yankee Stadium

to its reputation as a melting pot, New York's rich boxing history is reflected in the names of the many Irish, Jewish, Italian, black, and Hispanic gladiators who called the city their home.

New York City had it all: world-famous Stillman's Gym in Manhattan, Gleason's in the Bronx, and Beecher's in Brooklyn. There was the historic St. Nicholas Arena, and colorful Jacobs' Beach. There were Runyonesque characters galore, and in fact, until 1946, there was Damon Runyon himself, who wrote for one of the city's 10 daily newspapers. And lest we forget, "The Bible Of Boxing," Nat Fleischer's THE RING, was based in New York. But most of all, New York featured the Mecca of boxing, the sport's holiest shrine, Madison Square Garden. The honor of appearing in "The House That Tex Built" was second only to winning a world title—and New York hosted more world title fights than any other city.



Joe Frazier pounds Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden

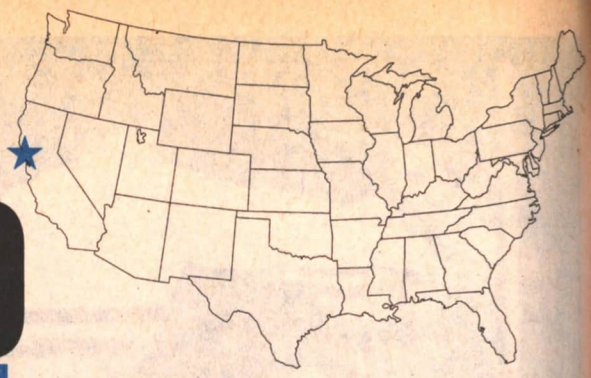
During the outdoor season, big fights were staged in Yankee Stadium (Leonard-Tendler, Louis-Schmeling, Marciano-Moore, Ali-Norton), the Polo Grounds (Dempsey-Firpo, Louis-Conn, Robinson-Turpin), and Ebbets Field (Delaney-Berlenbach, Herman-Lynch, Rosenbloom-Slattery). Other outdoor venues included the Coney Island Velodrome, Queensboro Arena, and Fort Hamilton.

A noticeable downhill slide began in the mid-'50s. The neighborhood clubs began to close down, and new talent became scarce. Stillman's and St. Nick's closed their doors. The International Boxing Club's criminal monopoly and the misuse of the relatively new medium of television were destructive, but profound sociological, economic, and demographic changes were also to blame.

The stupendous Ali-Frazier showdown at the fourth incarnation of Madison Square Garden in 1971 was the great fight town's climactic swan song. The casino hot spots of Las Vegas and later Atlantic City took center stage. By the time the Garden's boxing department closed down in 1993, all that remained were the fabulous memories of a bygone era when New York City reigned supreme as the greatest fight town of them all.

Michael Silver, a boxing historian, is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

SAN FRANCISCO

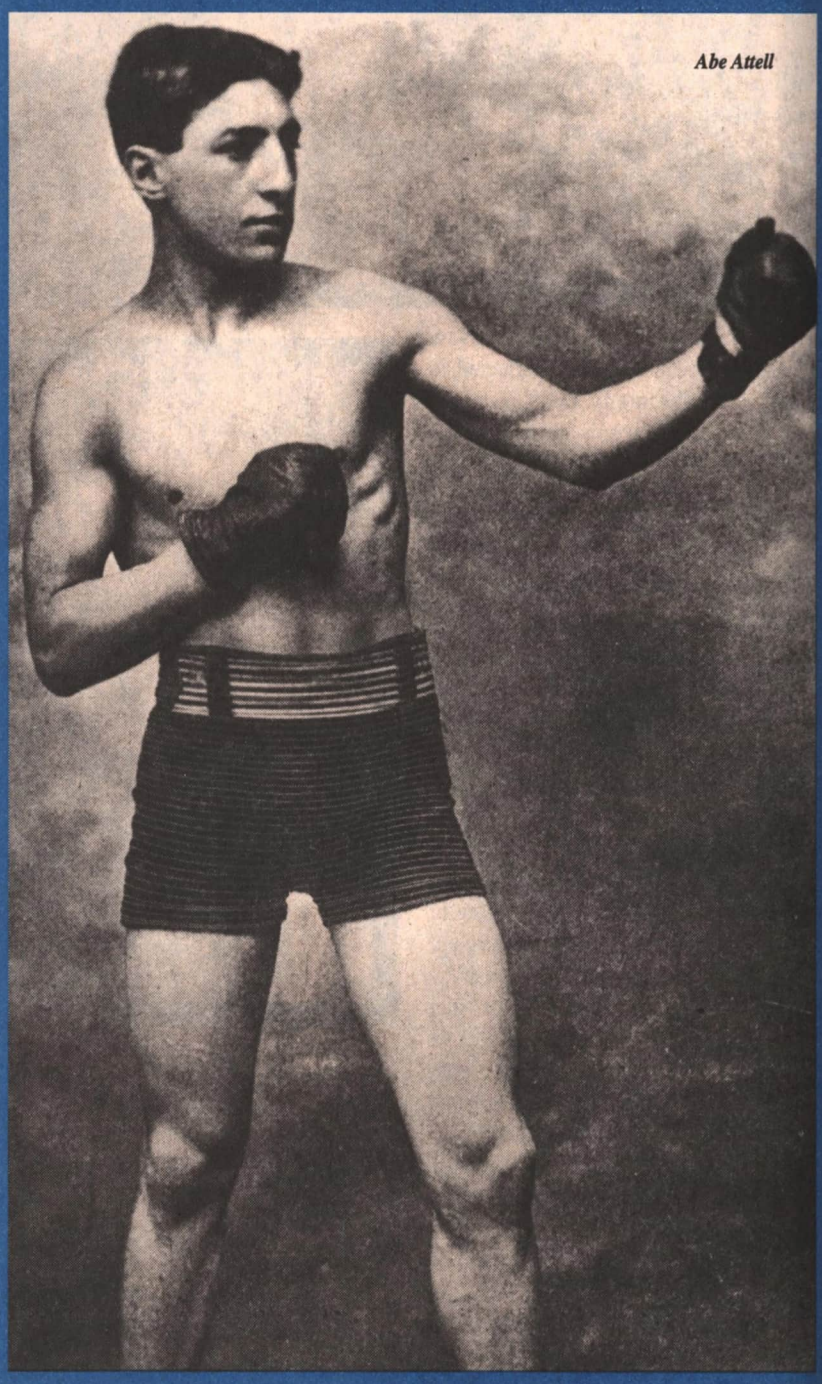


The Top 10 Of San Francisco

1. Abe Attell
2. James J. Corbett
3. Joe Choynski
4. Frankie Neil
5. Willie Ritchie
6. Jimmy Britt
7. Bobo Olson
8. Fred Apostoli
9. Sailor Tom Sharkey
10. Frankie Klick

The Best Fight

Jack Johnson KO 12 Stanley Ketchel, *Mission Street Arena, Colma, California, October 16, 1909*: The heavyweight champion had to get off the floor to kayo the middleweight king. Honorable Mention: Heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles' eighth-round kayo of San Francisco product Pat Valentino in 1949. It was the first card ever held at the Cow Palace.



Abe Attell

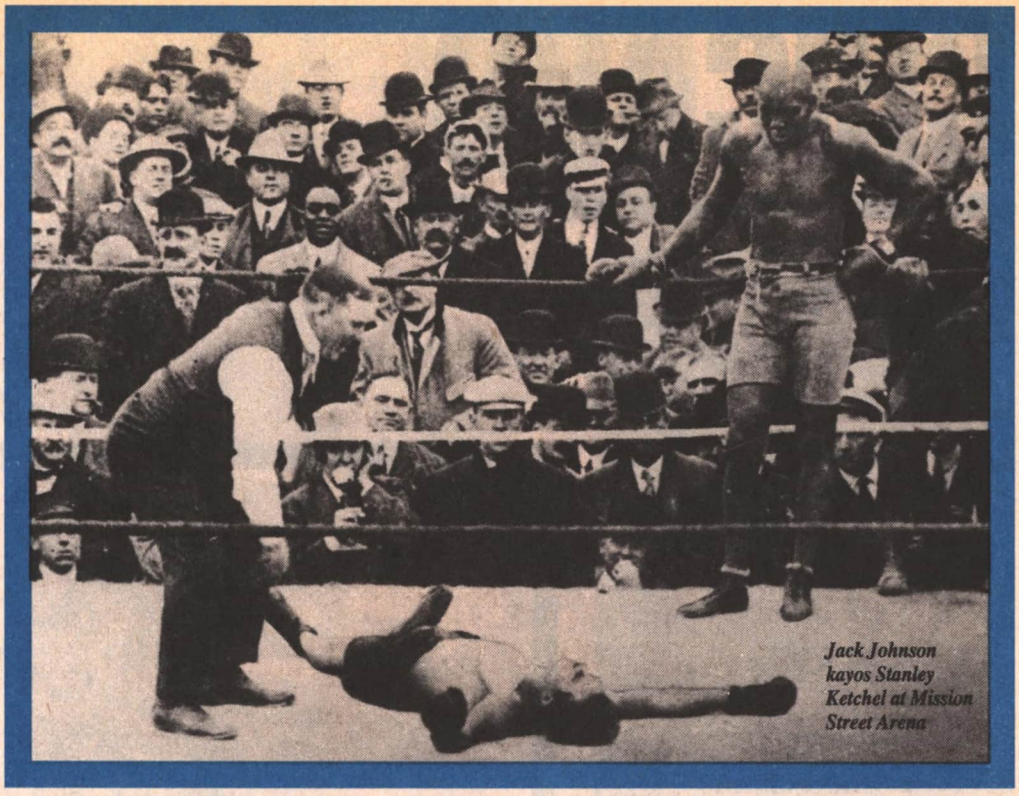
By Jack Fiske

At the turn of the century (and both before and after the 1906 earthquake and fire), with Irish, Jewish, German, and Italian immigrants inundating the streets, prize fighting was one way of survival. With the city and its harbor a stopping-off place for Australia-bound fighters, it's no wonder boxing was the most popular sport in a wide-open city that was still a playground for the gold-rich miners who had flocked from all over the

world only a few years earlier.

In California, 1914 to 1924 is referred to as "the four-round days" because the state limited pro bouts to four rounds. The idea was to decrease the number of fights, but the legislation had the opposite effect as fighters from the East and Midwest flocked to California, and particularly San Francisco, in the mistaken assumption that they could pick up good purses for boxing a mere four rounds.

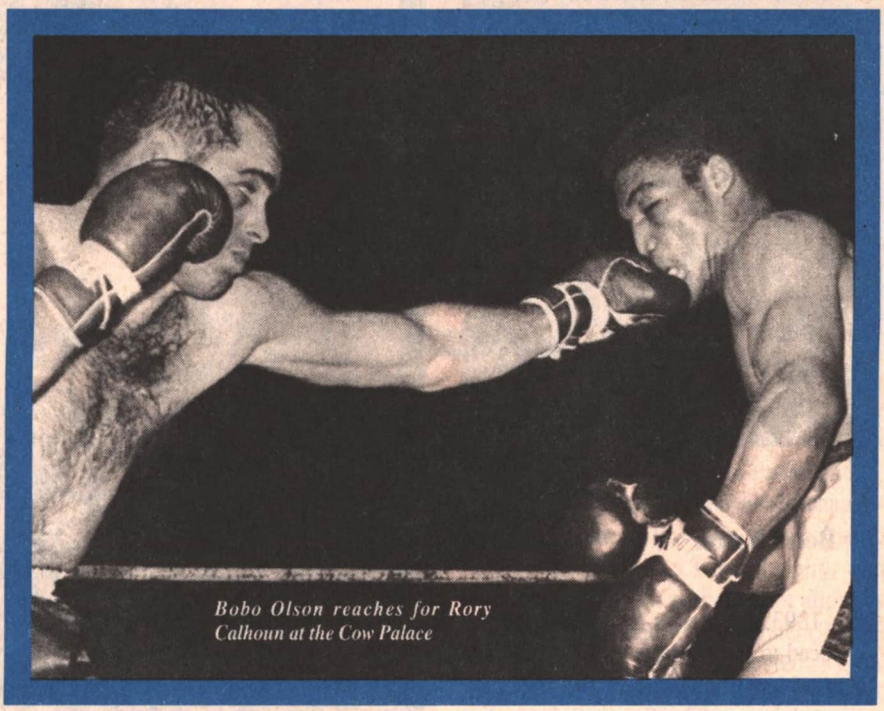
The local fighters were no easy mark. Jimmy Duffy was known as "King Of The Four-Rounders." Jack Silver established some sort of record by engaging in 56 consecutive main events on Friday nights at Dreamland Rink and neighboring towns. Incredibly, he won all of them. Mushy Callahan went on to become junior lightweight champion of the world.



Jack Johnson kayos Stanley Ketchel at Mission Street Arena

In 1917 and '18, Jack Dempsey, on his way to establishing himself as the top contender in the heavyweight division, fought five four-rounders vs. local sailor Willie Meehan. (One of the bouts was in Oakland.) The fat Meehan was deceptively skilled, and Dempsey's record in those bouts was a mere 1-2-2.

The city's boxing history goes back almost 30 years earlier. In the "Battle Of The Barge" in 1889, local products Corbett and Choynski duked it out in San Francisco Bay. Two years later, Corbett decided he could beat then-heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan after sparring with the great John L. in dress suits at the Grand Opera House. Indeed, in 1892, Corbett defeated Sullivan to take the crown.



Bobo Olson reaches for Rory Calhoun at the Cow Palace

Early in the 1900s, the area's leading promoter was James "Sunny Jim" Coffroth, whose afternoon outdoor shows never had a rainout. His stable included Stanley Ketchel, Joe Gans, Battling Nelson, Ad Wolgast, and Ritchie. They were known as "Coffroth's Matinee Idols."

Shows were held almost every night. The fight clubs of the day, some of which remained active into the '50s and '60s, included Dreamland, Winterland, Woodward's Pavilion, National Hall, Civic Auditorium, The Observatory Club, The Association Club, and Recreation Park. San Francisco's most famous venue, the Cow Palace, opened in 1949.

Boxing began to decelerate in the '50s, but certainly not because of the Hawaiian-born Olson, who fought Rocky Castellani and Pierre Langlois in middleweight title fights at the Cow Palace. A critical factor in the '70s decline was the downsizing of the city's Golden Gloves tournament, which was initially sponsored by the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Today, there is no live boxing in San Francisco. The sport is 100 percent dead.

Jack Fiske, a former columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and a ring historian, is consider the godfather of American boxing writers.

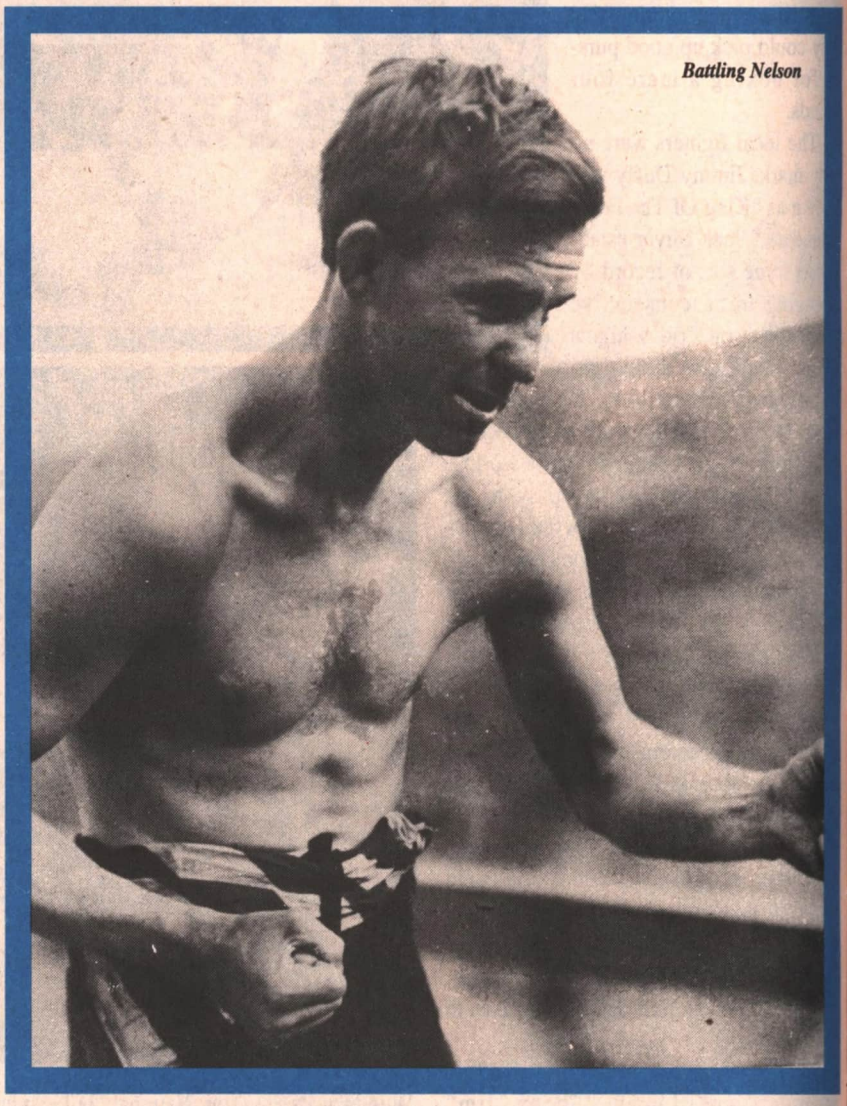
CHICAGO

The Top 10 Of Chicago

1. Battling Nelson
2. Tony Zale
3. Barney Ross
4. Jimmy Barry
5. Johnny Coulon
6. Nate Bolden
7. Davey Day
8. Johnny Bratton
9. Ernie Terrell
10. Eddie Perkins

The Best Fight

Rocky Graziano KO 6 Tony Zale, *Chicago Stadium, July 16, 1947:* Though Chicago was the scene of The Long Count (Tunney-Dempsey II) and The Perfect Punch (Robinson-Fullmer II), no fight was more thrilling than Graziano-Zale II, fought before 18,000 fans in sweltering heat. Graziano came back from a fearsome battering to stop Zale with a sixth-round assault that gave him the world middleweight title.



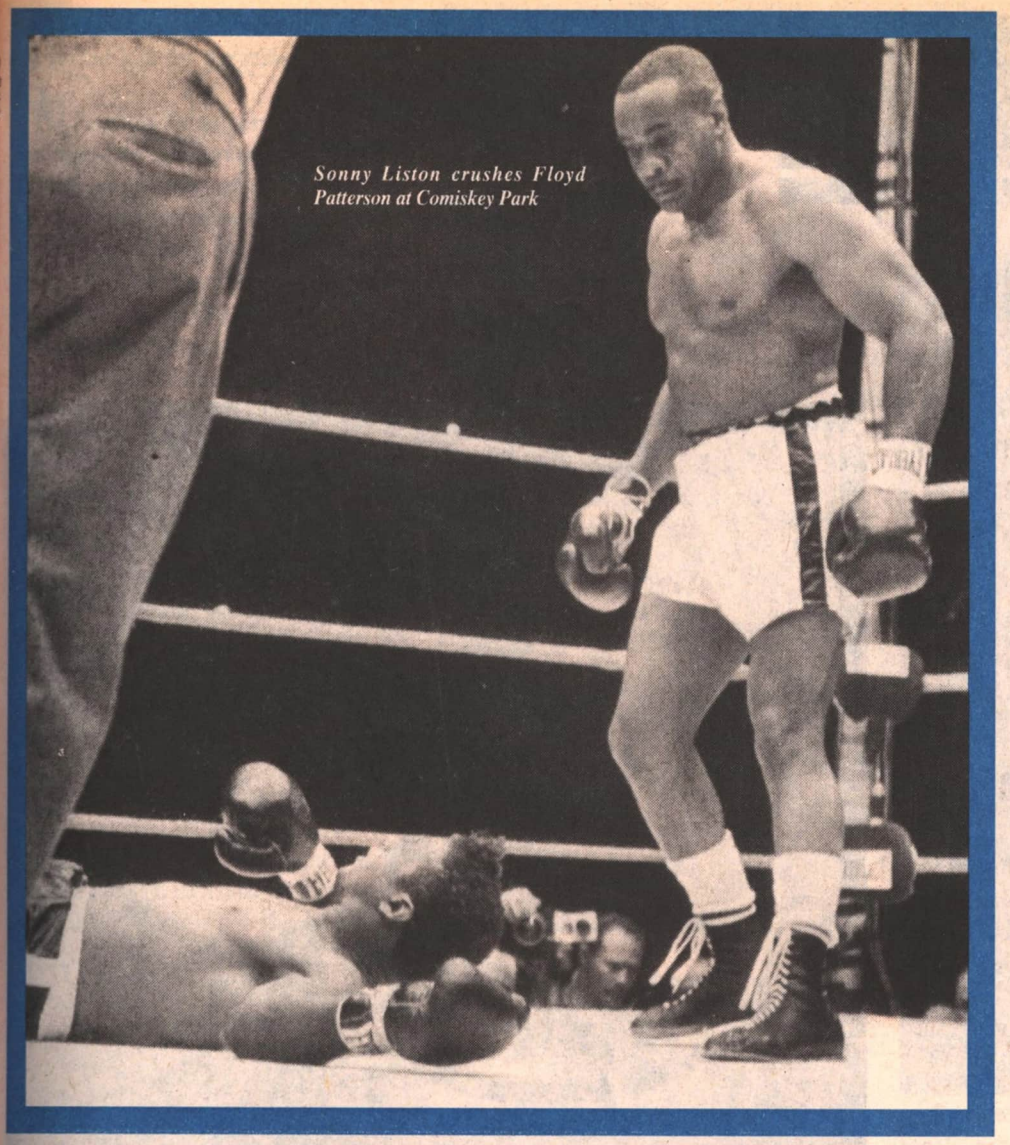
Battling Nelson

By Bob Mutter

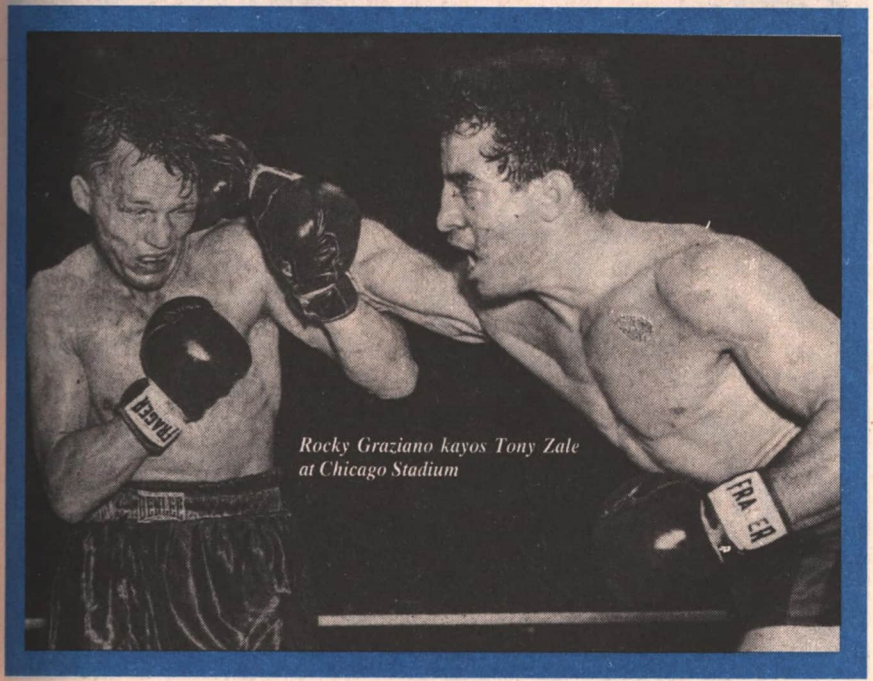
In 1893, the Ferris Wheel was introduced to the world in Chicago. Boxing must have been one of the first customers because The Sweet Science has been going round and round and up and down in the Windy City ever since.

The first great Chicago fighter was Barry, who was recognized as the initial world flyweight champion after beating Walter Croot in 1897. The 20th century, however, opened with a stinker that would kill the sport in the city for the better part of a generation. In Tattersalls Arena in 1900, featherweight champion Terry McGovern met future lightweight king Joe Gans in a non-title bout that was preceded by rumors of a fix. Gans folded in the third round, confirming the suspicions of the press and public. As a result, the sport was virtually dead until the '20s.

Great fighters like Denmark-born lightweight Nelson and bantamweight Coulon found little work in their hometown. But the sport most closely associated with comebacks made a great one. In 1926, Mickey Walker won the middleweight title with a popular but controversial decision over Tiger Flowers at the Chicago Coliseum. The building would be open for one of the last times in 1971, for a closed-circuit showing of the first Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight. When the picture



Sonny Liston crushes Floyd Patterson at Comiskey Park



Rocky Graziano kayos Tony Zale at Chicago Stadium

failed, fans nearly destroyed the old hall.

In 1927, Jack Dempsey challenged heavyweight champion Gene Tunney before more than 100,000 fans at newly built Soldier Field, and in 1929, Tommy Loughran defended the light heavyweight title against the aforementioned Walker to open Chicago Stadium, where Sugar Ray Robinson would win the middleweight title four of his five times. The Stadium, and many other arenas, would be filled with fights until the sport went into another decline in the early-'60s.

Many great fights at the Stadium were held under the auspices of the International Boxing Club, run by James Norris, who also owned the ice hockey Blackhawks. But the courts ruled the powerful IBC violated anti-trust laws, and it was dismantled. No boxing was held at the Stadium in the '70s or '80s, and the building was demolished in 1994.

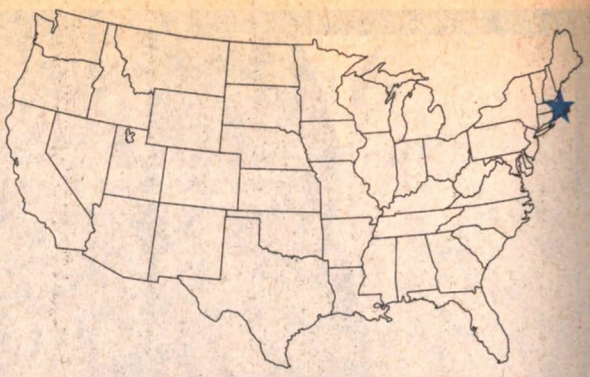
A wide-open town that Jack Johnson found to his liking, Chicago hosted some fights that were too hot for the stricter New York State Athletic Commission, including Tunney-Dempsey II, Joe Louis-Jim Braddock, Graziano-Zale II, and Liston-Patterson I.

In recent years, several world champions have come out of Chicago, including Oliver McCall, Lee Roy Murphy, and Alfonzo Ratliff. The game is kept afloat by local promoters and former fighters Terrell and Bobby Hitz. Best remembered as Ali's nemesis in the '60s, Terrell won the WBA heavyweight title by decisioning Eddie Machen at the International Amphitheatre in 1965.

Terrell and Hitz brought a lot of the sport's top names to the Windy City in recent years, but not in major fights. Maybe when Chicago gets casino gambling, the roulette wheel will finish what the Ferris Wheel started.

Bob Mutter is the boxing writer for the Chicago Sun-Times.

BOSTON



The Top 10 Of Boston

1. John L. Sullivan
2. Rocky Marciano
3. Marvin Hagler
4. Tony DeMarco
5. Sal Bartolo
6. Paul Pender
7. Honeyboy Finnegan
8. Lou Brouillard
9. Jack Sharkey
10. Sam Langford

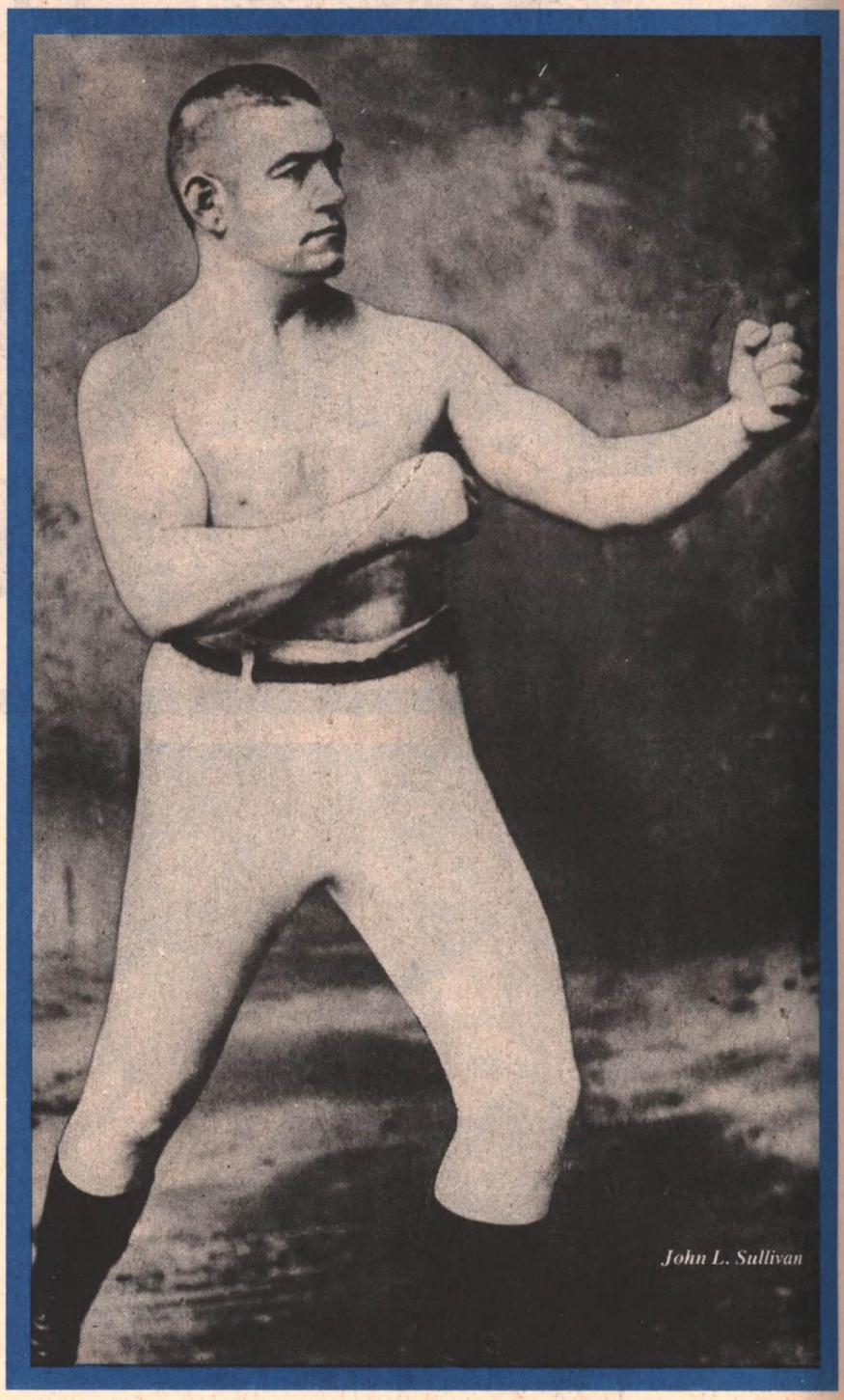
The Best Fight

Marvin Hagler KO 12 Willie Monroe, *Hynes Auditorium, February 15, 1977:* There are old-timers who'll swear on Basilio-DeMarco II or DeMarco-Saxton, but for my money, the best bout has to be Marvelous Marvin and "The Worm."

By Jay N. Miller

Boxing was a popular sport in Boston almost as soon as the English and Irish immigrants disembarked in Beantown. The first widespread publicity came as a result of the ascendance of Sullivan, a.k.a. "The Boston Strong Boy." The legendary John L. was born in the city's Roxbury section, and in the 1880s, many of his bare-knuckle fights were in the area. The Hub was home to another world champion before the century was out, with Paddy Duffy becoming the first recognized welterweight titlist in 1888.

The early part of the century featured locally produced world champions Honey Mellody, Mike "Twin" Sullivan, and Mike Glover. It was also a time when the world's top heavyweights were avoiding Langford, a fireplug from Chelsea who was nicknamed "The Boston Tar Baby." Jack Johnson barely



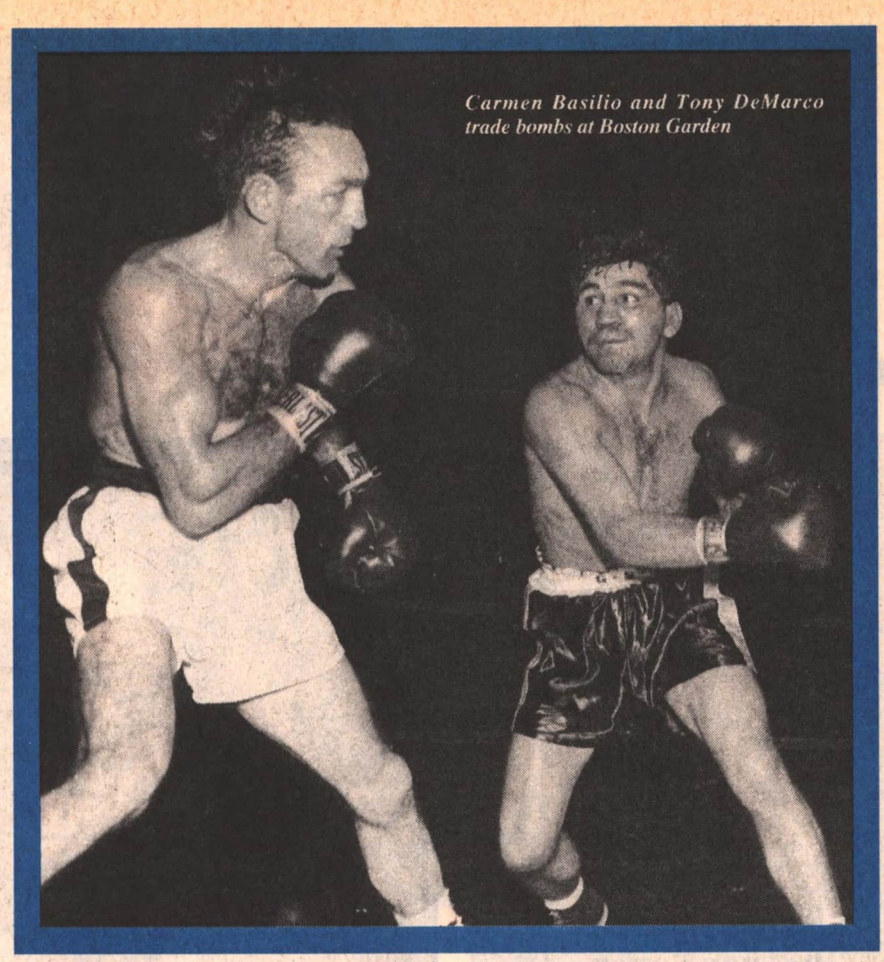
John L. Sullivan

edged Langford in a 1906 bout in Boston and then ducked him for the remainder of his career.

The Roaring Twenties found boxing thriving at several venues, including the Boston Arena and Mechanics Hall. The local stars were middleweight champion Mike O'Dowd and Young Montreal. Visitors included Tommy Loughran, Harry Greb, Tiger Flowers, and, in exhibitions, Benny Leonard and Jack Dempsey.

Left-handed featherweight Finnegan headlined the first Boston Garden card in 1928. In the '30s, Sharkey and transplanted Canadian Brouillard were the area's best fighters. A landmark bout in the city's fight history was Joe Louis' title defense against Al McCoy at Boston Garden in 1940. During the war years, Sugar Ray Robinson fought in Boston, and in 1944, featherweight Bartolo returned the glitter of a title belt to town when he won NBA honors.

Welterweight DeMarco, known as "The Fire And Fury Of Fleet Street," was the main attraction in the '50s. Also popular was lightweight contender Tommy Collins. But it was Marciano who made Boston a fight capital again, even though he hailed from Brockton, Massachusetts (25 miles to the south), and



Carmen Basilio and Tony DeMarco trade bombs at Boston Garden

Marvin Hagler chops down Fully Obelmejias at Boston Garden

fought here only twice. Unlike Marciano, middleweight champion Pender, who reigned in the early-'60s, fought the majority of his 48 bouts in his hometown.

Despite the yeoman work of legendary local promoters "Unsinkable" Sam Silverman and "The Sad Signor," Al Valenti, boxing began to slip in the late-'60s. There was a brief resurgence when another Brockton-based champion, Hagler, engaged in many of his formative bouts in Boston. He defended the middleweight title at Boston Garden vs. Fully Obelmejias and Vito Antuofermo.

Since Hagler's retirement, there have been a slew of world-class contenders, including Robbie Sims and Irish import Steve Collins. Peter McNeeley gained the limelight by lasting 89 seconds with Mike Tyson, and in October, he and unbeaten middleweight Dana Rosenblatt opened Boston's new arena, the FleetCenter. McNeeley's no John L., and Rosenblatt ain't no Marvelous Marvin, but nothing's as good as it used to be, anyway.

Jay N. Miller is The Ring's correspondent for New England.

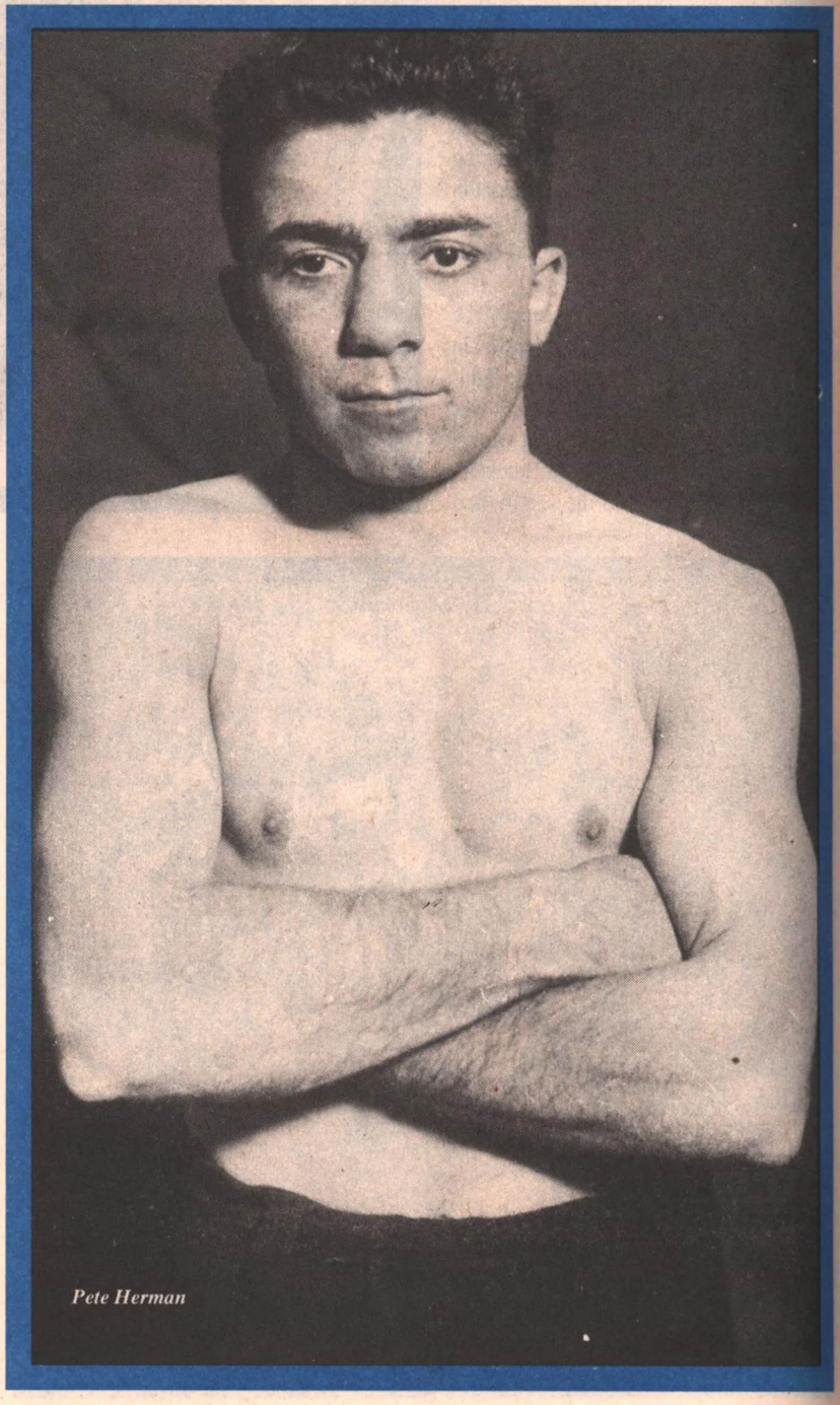
NEW ORLEANS

The Top 10 Of New Orleans

1. Pete Herman
2. Joe Brown
3. Willie Pastrano
4. Ralph Dupas
5. Freddie Little
6. Jimmy Perrin
7. Bernard Docusen
8. Percy Pugh
9. Tony Licata
10. Andy Bowen

The Best Fight

James J. Corbett KO 21 John L. Sullivan, *The Olympic Club, September 7, 1892:* The first heavyweight title fight under the Marquis of Queensberry rules, and the climax of the first "Carnival Of Champions" card



Pete Herman

By George Sweeney

When it comes to boxing tradition, "The Big Easy" long ago reserved its place in history. It started with the first "Carnival Of Champions" more than 100 years ago, and has been reborn with the introduction of casino gambling over the last two years.

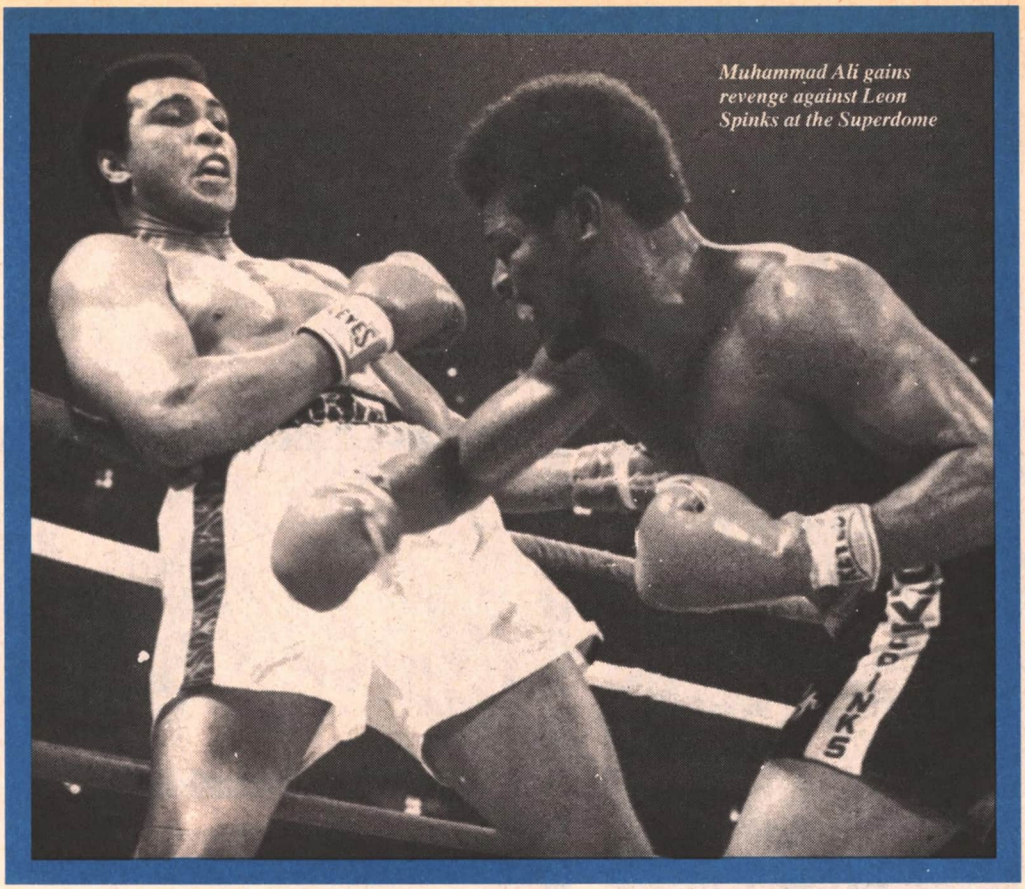
There have been 38 world title fights staged in New Orleans since the Carnival of 1892, when the old Olympic Club on Royal and Monteguet Streets was the site of a then-record three world championship bouts over the course of three days, lightweight champion Jack McAuliffe vs. Billy Myer, feather-

weight champion George Dixon vs. Jack Skelly, and Corbett-Sullivan.

For the first time, boxing gloves were used in a title bout. To protect against the danger of injury from a fall, the ring at the Olympic Club was packed with river sand. And to protect against gate-crashers, the Olympic Club proper was surrounded by barbed-wire fencing.

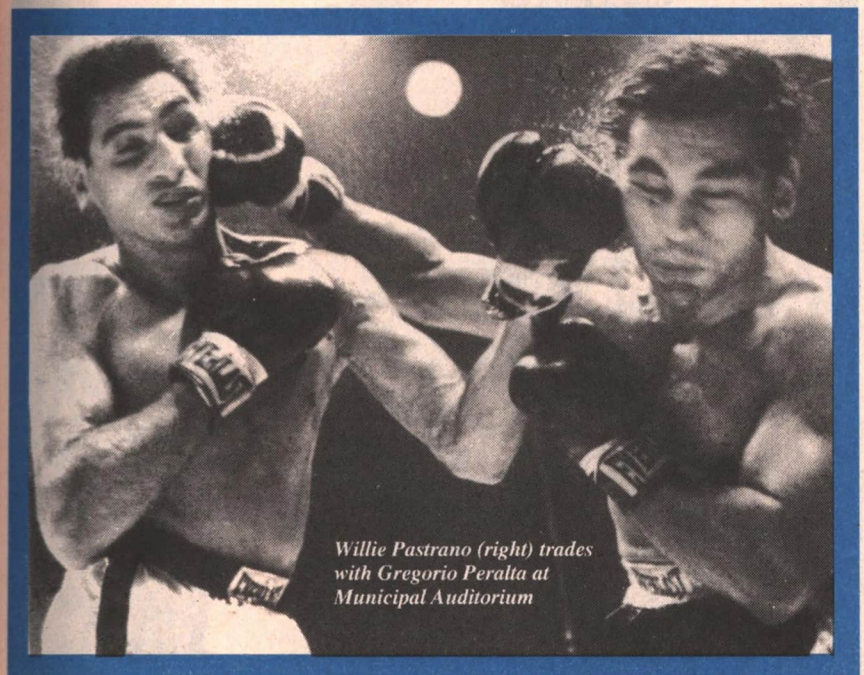
New Orleans' first champion didn't come along until 1917, when Pete Herman lifted the world bantamweight crown from Kid Williams at the Louisiana Auditorium.

Pound-for-pound, Tony Canzoneri was considered the best fighter in the world during his prime. A native of Slidell, Canzoneri rose to prominence in New York and fought only sporadically in New Orleans throughout his 175-bout career.



Muhammad Ali gains revenge against Leon Spinks at the Superdome

In more modern times, New Orleanians Joe Brown, Ralph Dupas, and Willie Pastrano kept boxing going in the Crescent City. Brown won the world lightweight title from Bud Smith at the Municipal Arena in 1956; in the same building, Dupas won the world junior middleweight title in 1963; and Pastrano, who, as a kid, thought boxing would be a good prescription for losing weight, won the world light heavyweight title, also in 1963. Pastrano won the crown in Las Vegas, but made a successful defense at home, stopping Gregorio Peralta at the Municipal Auditorium in 1964.



Willie Pastrano (right) trades with Gregorio Peralta at Municipal Auditorium

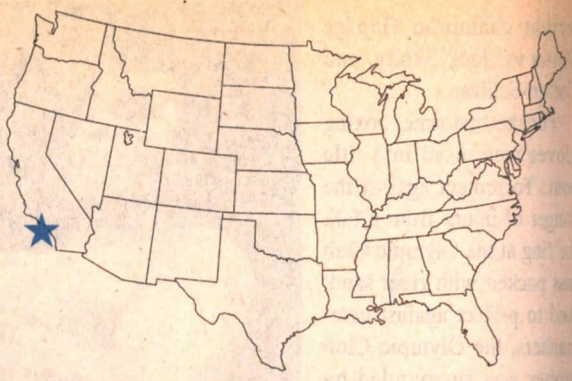
In 1978, "The Battle Of New Orleans," which included four title fights on one card, drew a record indoor crowd of nearly 70,000 at the Superdome. Some suggested the card should have been called "The Second Louisiana Purchase" because the main-eventers, Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks, sliced up about $8-million. Ali won the heavyweight title for a record third time by capturing a unanimous 15-round decision.

In 1982, there were two historic title fights on the same card at the Superdome, with Thomas Hearns dethroning junior middleweight champion Wilfred Benitez and, in a brutal war, junior featherweight champion Wilfredo Gomez stopping Lupe Pintor. New Orleans also hosted one of the most unusual title fights ever, with welterweight champion Roberto Duran saying "no mas" in the eighth round of his second bout with Sugar Ray Leonard at the Superdome in 1980.

In typical style, New Orleans didn't even shrug.

George Sweeney is the boxing writer for the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

LOS ANGELES

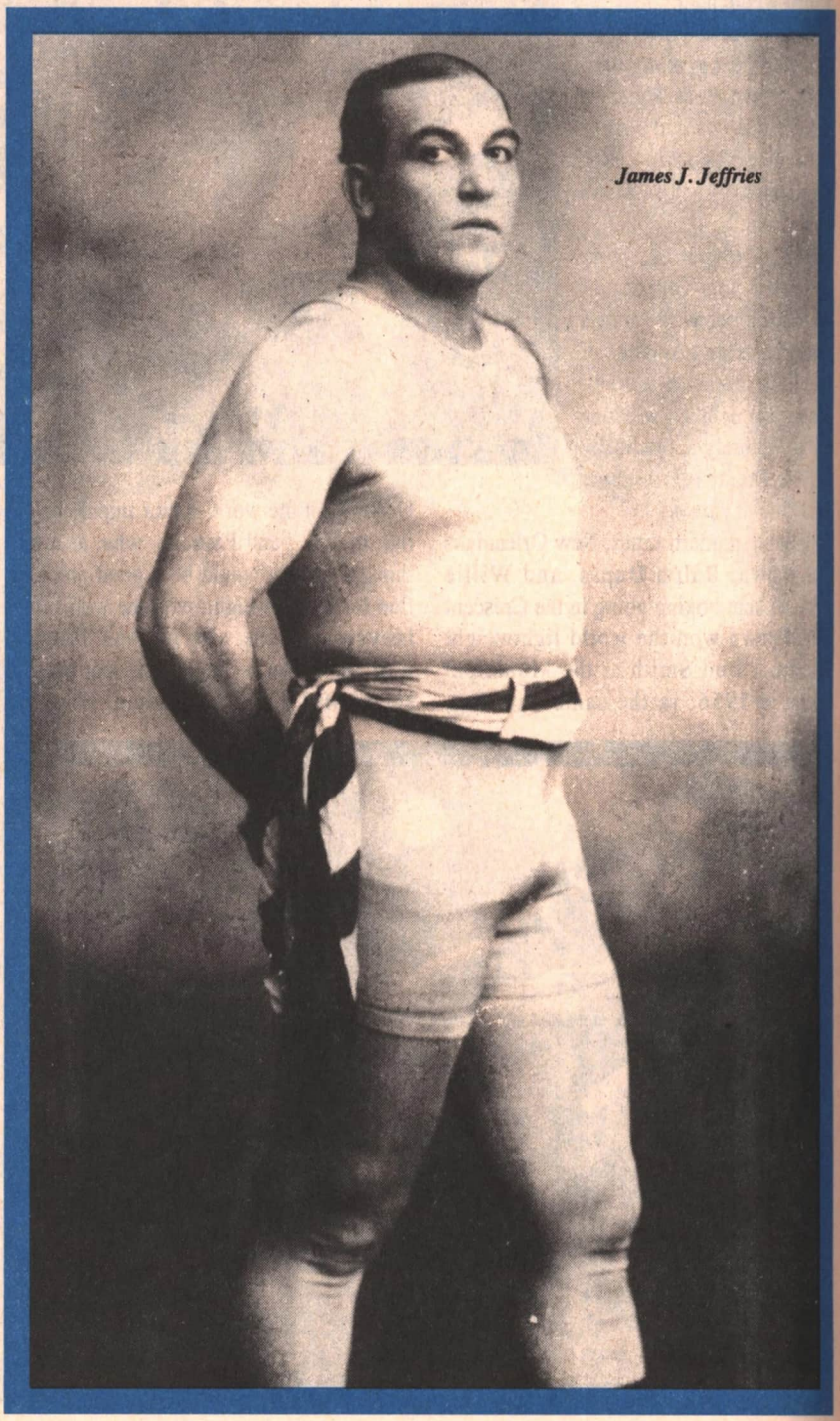


The Top 10 Of Los Angeles

1. James J. Jeffries
2. Manuel Ortiz
3. Baby Arizmendi
4. Art Aragon
5. Mando Ramos
6. Jimmy McLarnin
7. Carlos Palomino
8. Solly Smith
9. Fidel LaBarba
10. Ceferino Garcia

The Best Fight

Art Aragon KO 9 Cisco Andrade, *Wrigley Field, August 29, 1956:* Cut over both eyes and bleeding from the mouth and nose, Aragon rallies to twice floor Andrade and finish him in the next-to-last round. A boxer-slugger classic. Honorable mention, and the best *title* fight: Joe Becerra KO 8 Alphonse Halimi at the Sports Arena.



James J. Jeffries

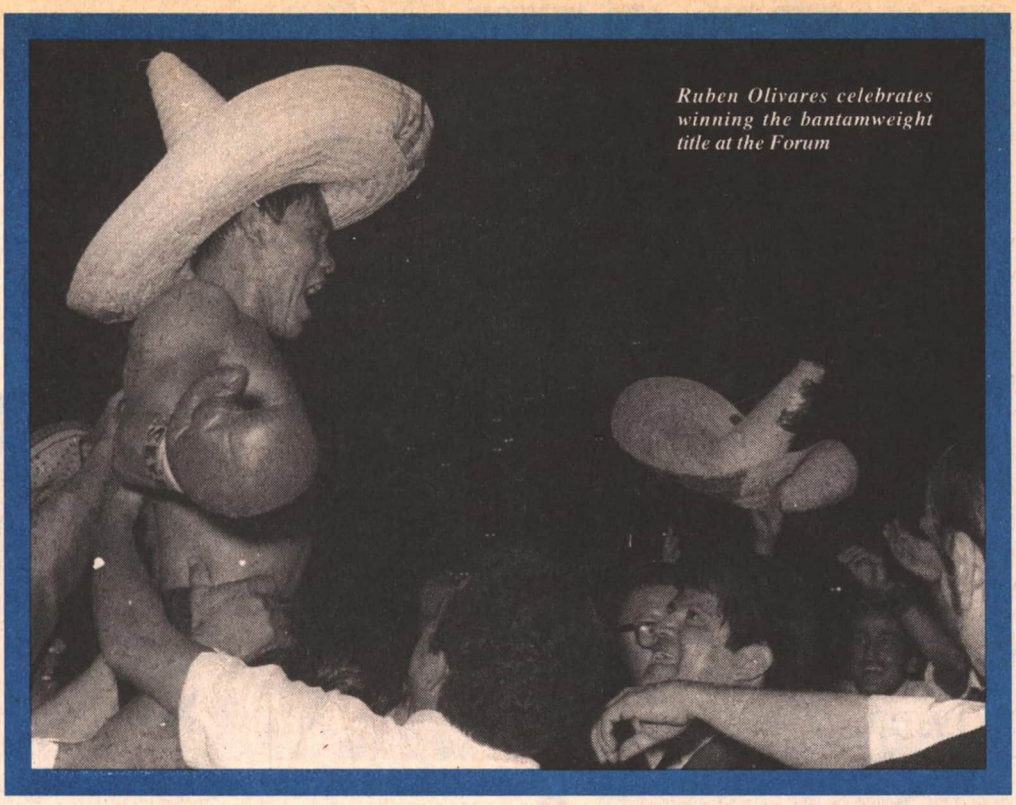
By John Hall

Frank Sinatra promoted an outdoor heavyweight title elimination bout at Gilmore Stadium between Jersey Joe Walcott and Joey Maxim. "Ol' Blue Eyes" was also a silent partner in lightweight contender Andrade. George Raft managed another ranked lightweight, George Latka. The Marx Brothers, Charlie Chaplin, Errol Flynn, Mae West, Douglas Fairbanks, W.C. Fields, Dean Martin, Lou Costello, Bob Hope, Clara Bow, Jose Ferrer, and Rosemary Clooney were regulars at the

Friday night fights in Hollywood. One night, Al Jolson punched out Walter Winchell at ringside.

How else would you expect it to have been in Los Angeles?

Mostly, Los Angeles boxing is ghosts and memories. Gilmore Stadium was long ago razed to make room for CBS Television Center. Hollywood Legion Stadium, once hailed as the most glamorous fight arena in America, became a bowling alley in 1958, and later a health spa. Wrigley Field, which featured headliners such as McLarnin, Ace Hudkins, Mickey Walker, Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Ad Wolgast, Joe Rivers, and Paolino Uzcudun, has been gone for 35 years, and is now the site of an inner-city psychiatric clinic.

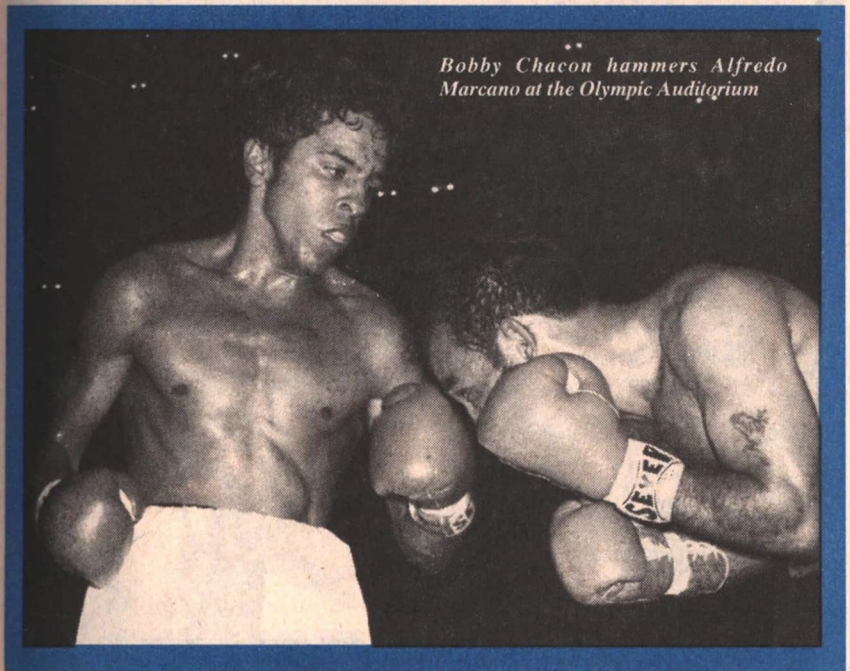


Ruben Olivares celebrates winning the bantamweight title at the Forum

The Olympic Auditorium, described as an architectural masterpiece when it opened in 1925, with Newsboy Brown and Young Nationalista headlining before an SRO black-tie crowd of 12,000 that included Rudolph Valentino and Jack Dempsey, fights on with occasional shows. But audiences and interest continue to sag. The only regular cards are promoted by Forum Boxing in Inglewood.

But how sweet it was when it was all so sweet. The dawn broke in 1891, with the rise of a pair of future world champions, teenage heavyweight Jeffries and featherweight Smith. In 1897, Smith became Los Angeles' first world champion when he dethroned George Dixon.

In the '30s, weekly clubs flourished at Hollywood Legion, the Olympic, and Ocean Park Arena. In 1957, George Parnassus joined Cal and Aileen Eaton at the Olympic, and for the next 10 years they were an unbeatable team, filling up not only their home arena, but also the Sports Arena, Dodger Stadium, the Coliseum, and Wrigley Field with such attractions as Halimi, Hogan Bassey, Lionel Rose, and Mexican heroes Raton Macias, Pajarito Moreno, Becerra, and Battling Torres.



Bobby Chacon hammers Alfredo Marcano at the Olympic Auditorium

In the late-'60s and early-'70s, Parnassus teamed up with Don Fraser at the Fabulous Forum to set gate records with Ruben Olivares, Chucho Castillo, Jesus Pimental, Ernie Lopez, and Bobby Chacon. And don't forget that in 1962, Cassius Clay first stamped himself as a legitimate title threat by stopping Alejandro Lavorante and Archie Moore at the Sports Arena.

Other matchmakers and promoters such as Don "War-A-Week" Chargin, Charlie McDonald, Suey Welch, Tom Gallery, Jack Doyle, and Mickey Davies are also a vibrant part of a half-dozen golden eras.

It probably won't ever come this way again, but once is better than never. From Jeffries to Oscar De La Hoya, Los Angeles boxing doesn't need to apologize to anyone.

John Hall, who is now retired, covered boxing for the Los Angeles Times from 1950 to 1981.

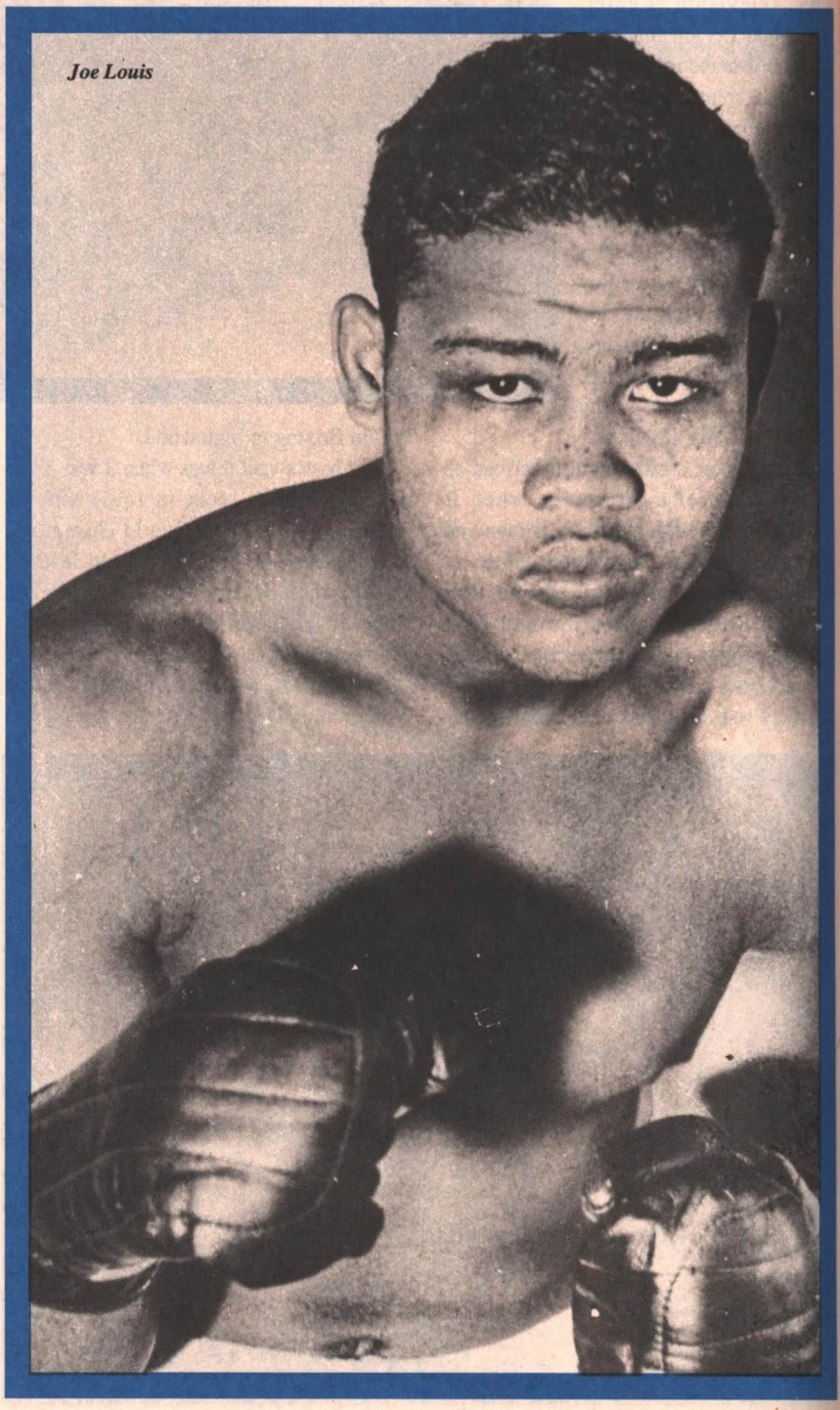
DETROIT

The Top 10 Of Detroit

1. Joe Louis
2. Thomas Hearns
3. James Toney
4. Holman Williams
5. Milton McCrory
6. Michael Moorer
7. Hilmer Kenty
8. K.O. Morgan
9. Dwight Davison
10. Jimmy Paul

The Best Fight

Caveman Lee KO 5 John LoCicero, *Twenty Grand Showroom, July 9, 1981:* In this pier-six brawl, the Kronk's Lee and New York's LoCicero took turns staggering one another. Exhausted and leaning on the ropes, Lee was able to summon the strength to knock out LoCicero, a dramatic and emphatic ending to a brutal bout.



Joe Louis

By Lindy Lindell

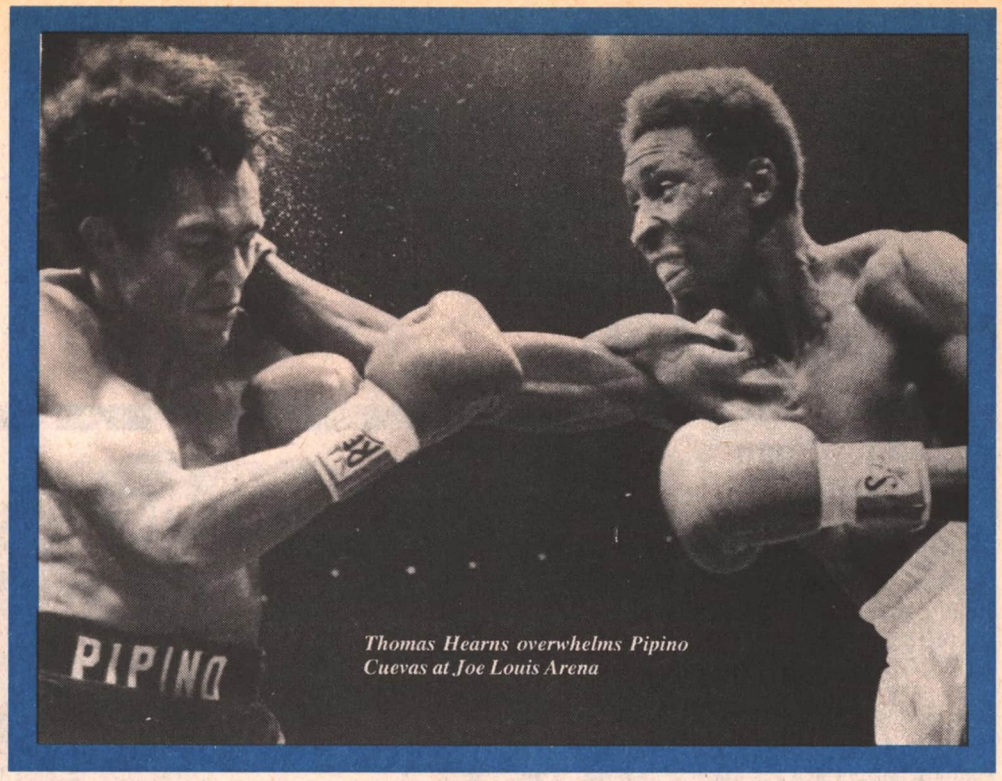
The quickest kayo in heavyweight title fight history aside (James J. Jeffries kayoed Jack Finnegan in 55 seconds at the Light Guard Armory in 1900), boxing history in Detroit was limited prior to World War II. After the war, however, Detroit was a major fight town, a base from which one could see—within driving distance—a fight practically every night.

"There was baseball and boxing," recalled longtime Detroit boxing observer Jim Burch, 73. "I think boxing was so much a part of the fabric of our lives because it was embraced by our religious institutions and our institutions of higher learning. One year, just before World War II, the CYO [Catholic Youth Organization]

had 110 entries in the Golden Gloves, and, of course, Chuck Davey [a favorite of TV viewers in the '50s] was a product of collegiate boxing."

Consider that in a 21-day span in February 1943, Jake LaMotta, who thought of Detroit as his second home, twice fought boxing's greatest, Sugar Ray Robinson. In the first meeting, LaMotta knocked down Robinson at the Olympia, saddling him with his first pro loss. At the same venue three weeks later, Robinson avenged the loss. Those bouts were the second and third of the famed Robinson-LaMotta series.

Chicago's James Norris Sr. was a major promoter in Detroit in those days, which came before his son, James Norris Jr., ran the omnipotent International Boxing Club.

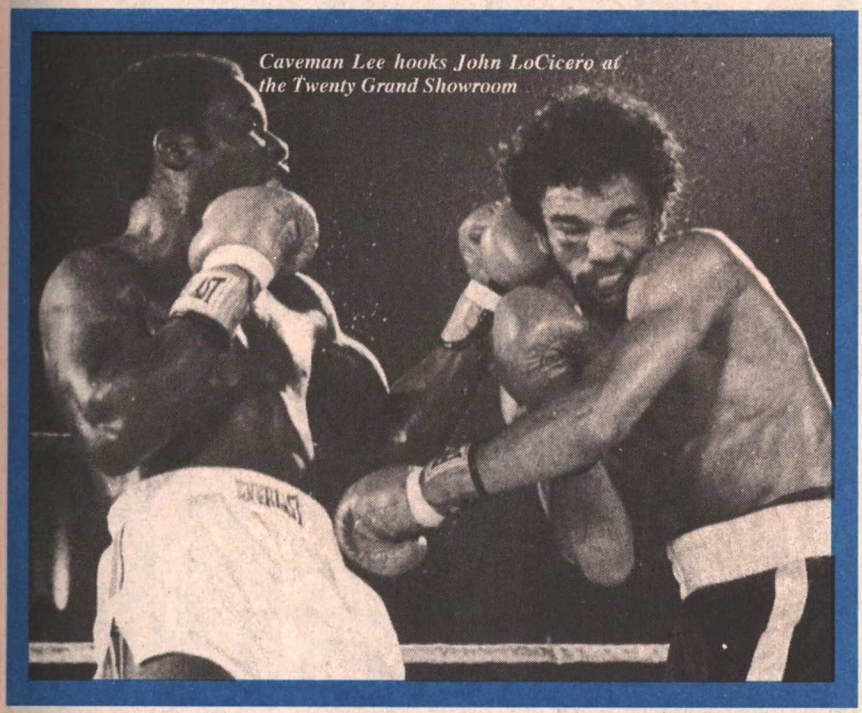


Thomas Hearns overwhelms Pipino Cuevas at Joe Louis Arena

While television made darlings of a number of fair-haired boys in the '50s, it was also the biggest factor in draining the sport of its popularity. TV more or less killed the clubshows as we knew them.

In the early-'50s, Detroit hosted limited nationally broadcast boxing shows at the compact Motor City Boxing Club. By 1960, however, the regularly scheduled show at Motor City, as well as shows at the Arena Gardens and the Arcadia were memories. By 1975, things were so dead that there wasn't a single boxing show in the city that entire year.

Two years later, things turned around when a slender youngster with a lethal straight right hand began to excite Detroiters to a fever pitch. Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns turned pro in November 1977. Fighting out of the soon-to-be-famous Kronk gym, he blew away 17 opponents in a row, mostly in Motown, at venues like the famed Cobo Hall. Hearns became a source of civic pride when he won the WBA welterweight title in 1980 by crushing Pipino Cuevas in a brand-new building named after Detroit's favorite boxing son, the Joe Louis Arena.


Caveman Lee hooks John LoCicero at the Twenty Grand Showroom

Despite losses to Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler, Hearns was a dominant boxer for the next decade, mostly under the guidance of Emanuel Steward, who headed the Kronk. Steward produced and steered a dozen world champions before relinquishing the managerial reins in the early-'90s.

As the millennium approaches, occasional clubshows fire up in Motown and then die. Only two or three gyms have enough activity to speak of, and the Golden Gloves competition draws only 40 to 50 participants a year. Hearns broke a seven-year drought by fighting at the suburban Palace of Auburn Hills in 1995, but he's near the end, and Steward is working mostly with fighters who have established themselves elsewhere.

Lindy Lindell is a Detroit-based boxing writer.

PITTSBURGH

The Top 10 Of Pittsburgh

1. Harry Greb
2. Billy Conn
3. Charley Burley
4. Teddy Yarosz
5. Billy Soose
6. Fritzie Zivic
7. Sammy Angott
8. Frank Klaus
9. Jackie Wilson
10. Cuddy DeMarco

The Best Fight

Jersey Joe Walcott KO 7 Ezzard Charles, *Forbes Field, July 18, 1951:* A single electrifying moment—Charles is in no trouble when Walcott lands one punch, a left hook, and the heavyweight title changes hands.

Harry Greb

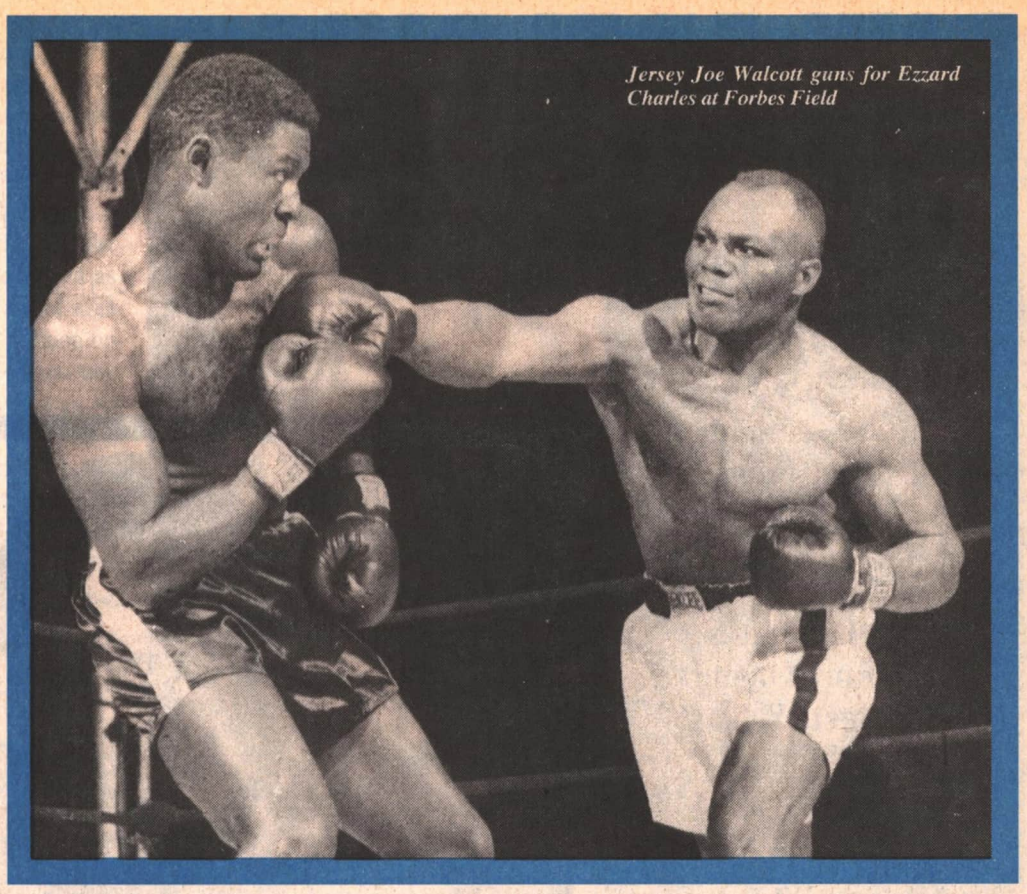
By Roy McHugh

Pittsburgh in the '30s, and up to the start of America's involvement in World War II, was perhaps the best fight town in the country. Between 1934 and 1941, seven world champions, Teddy Yarosz, Tony Marino, Billy Conn, Sammy Angott, Fritzie Zivic, Billy Soose, and Jackie Wilson, came out of the city. And that was when a championship still meant something.

There were fight cards three nights a week, the year round. There were fights on Christmas day. There were major attractions at Forbes Field, where the Pirates played baseball, and The Gardens, a car barn turned into a sports arena. There were club fights at places like Moose Hall and at small, open-air arenas.

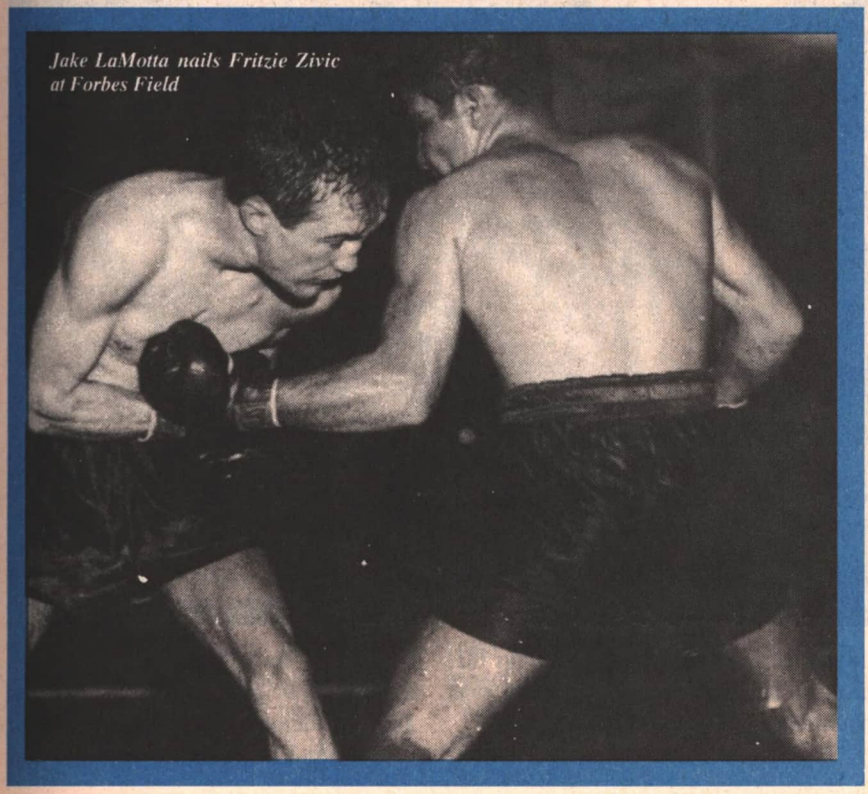
Louis, Robinson, Armstrong ... all the great ones boxed in Pittsburgh. Yarosz won and lost the world middleweight title and Conn defended the light heavyweight crown here. As a teenager, Conn boxed former champions, future champions, and near-champions in his hometown. He boxed Yarosz three times, and Zivic, too. For his part, Zivic came from behind to beat Angott. Five weeks later, he went to New York and defeated Henry Armstrong for the welterweight title. He was world champion, but only the second-best 147-pounder in his hometown, having lost two of three to Burley.

Burley was never a champion, but only because the titlists ducked him. He beat Soose, but he couldn't top a young Ezzard Charles, who was imported from Cincinnati. In those days, of course, no one else could, either. Pittsburgh was where Charles made his name, and it's where he lost the heavyweight title, knocked out with one punch by Walcott.



Jersey Joe Walcott guns for Ezzard Charles at Forbes Field

The Rooney-McGinley Club, nominally headed by Art Rooney, who owned the Pittsburgh Steelers, promoted that Walcott-Charles fight, the third of their four-bout series. Jack McGinley, Rooney's brother-in-law, was both matchmaker and decision-maker. Pittsburgh had never before hosted a heavyweight title fight, but everyone remembered the night in 1941 when Conn lost to Joe Louis after leading for 12 rounds. The umpires suspended a National League game at Forbes Field while everybody in the ballpark—umpires, players, and fans—listened to the radio broadcast from New York.



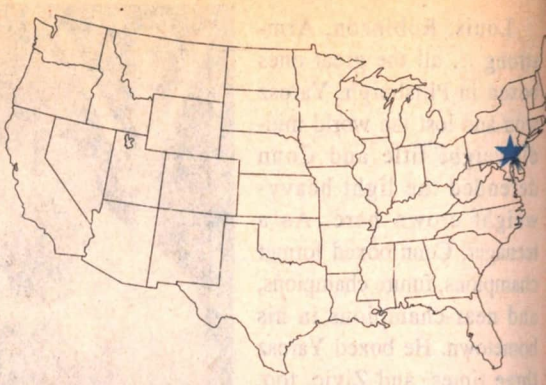
Jake LaMotta nails Fritzie Zivic at Forbes Field

Heavyweight Frank Moran, who left Pittsburgh in 1910, twice fought for the world title, vs. Jack Johnson in Paris and Jess Willard in New York City. Though he fought often in Pittsburgh, Greb's biggest bouts were in New York City. He was third in the line of middleweight champions from Pittsburgh, following Klaus and George Chip.

After World War II, television killed the fight clubs in Pittsburgh, and the talent dried up. Boxing-wise, the city today is a wasteland.

Roy McHugh was sports editor and columnist for the now-defunct Pittsburgh Press. He is working on a book about the history of boxing in Pittsburgh.

PHILADELPHIA

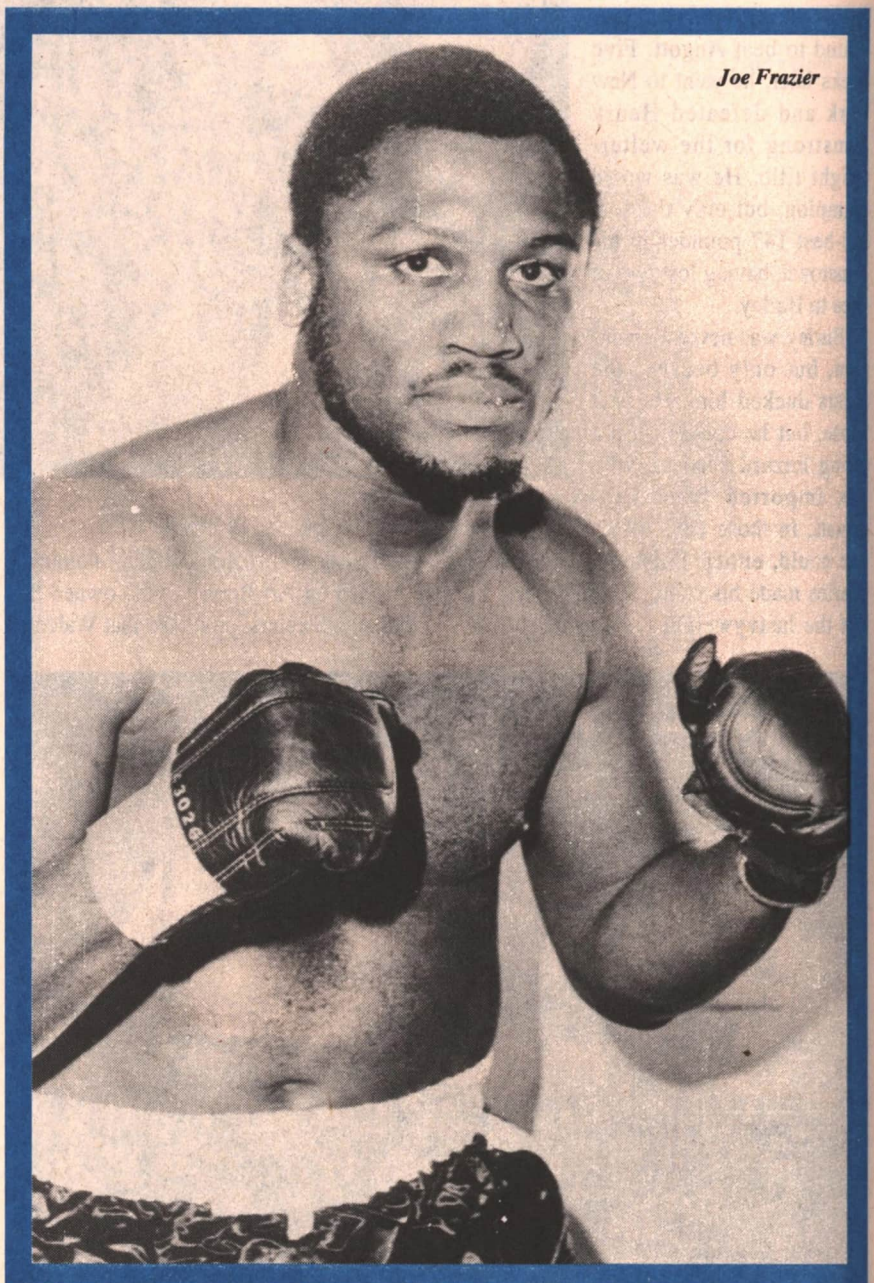


The Top 10 Of Philadelphia

1. Joe Frazier
2. Bob Montgomery
3. Harold Johnson
4. Joey Giardello
5. Jeff Chandler
6. Matthew Saad Muhammad
7. Tommy Loughran
8. Midget Wolgast
9. Lew Tendler
10. Bennie Briscoe

The Best Fight

Rocky Marciano KO 13 Jersey Joe Walcott, *Municipal Stadium, September 23, 1952*: A bloody Marciano, trailing on points, comes off the floor to kayo Walcott with one punch. High drama, a classic finish, and the ushering in of the Marciano era.



Joe Frazier

By Nigel Collins

It was no accident that Sylvester Stallone picked Philadelphia as *Rocky's* hometown. There has been an enduring love affair between the city and prize fighting since colonial times, and Philly's stature as a boxing mecca is unchallenged.

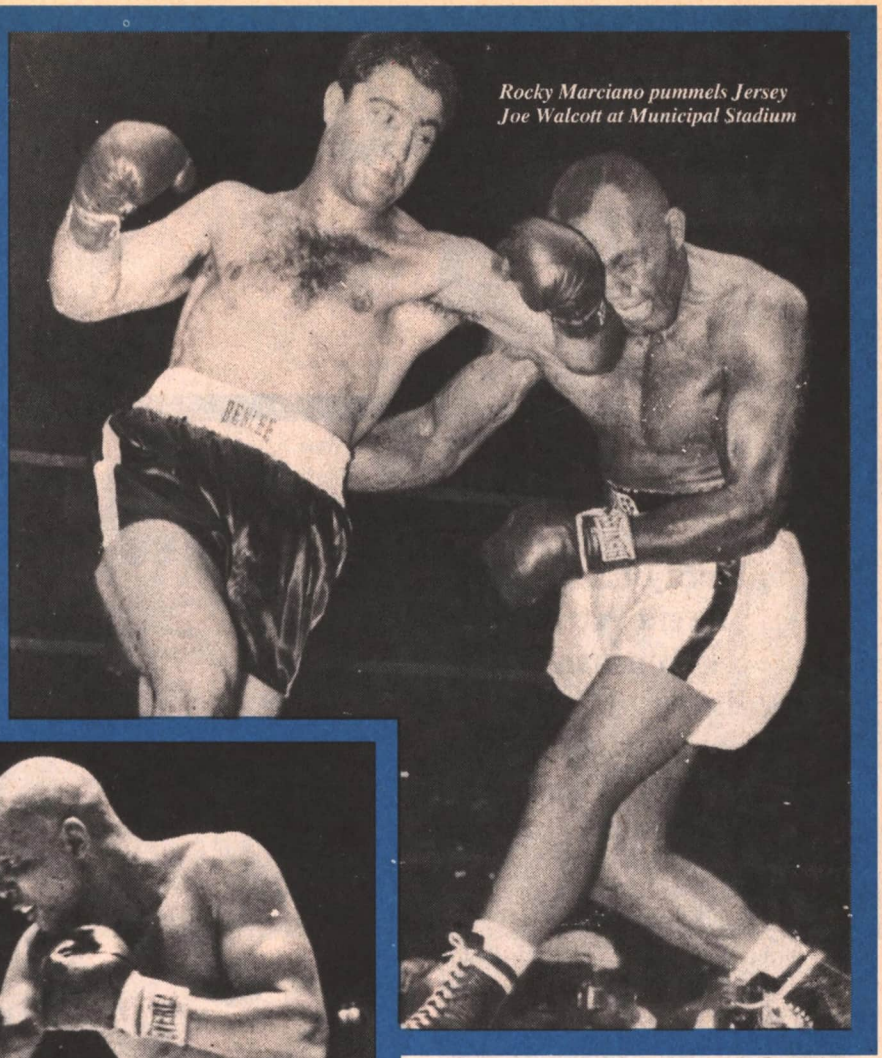
The city has been the hometown of 20 world champions this century. But what makes Philadelphia such a special boxing city goes beyond the fistic accomplishments of its citizens. Boxing is in Philly's pores, an integral part of the culture, spilling out of the gyms and arenas and into the everyday life of the populace. Not only do winos know how to hook off the jab, but politicians have been known to settle differences by trading haymakers during city council sessions. It is this ingrained familiarity with the sport that makes Philadelphia fans among the most knowledgeable on the planet.

Fittingly, the first world title fight of the gloved era held in Philadelphia featured heavyweight champion Jack Johnson and Philadelphia Jack O'Brien in 1909. The light-hitting O'Brien, who had

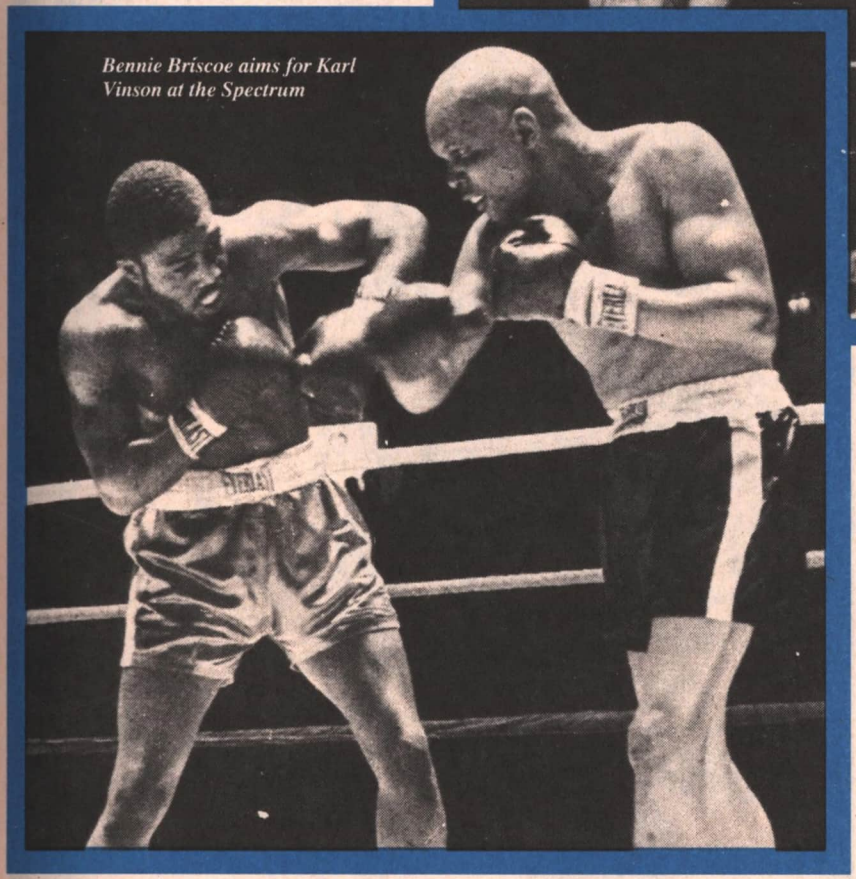
become the city's first world champion by winning the light heavyweight title in 1905, held the seemingly uninterested Johnson to a six-round no-decision in a yawner. But from that rather inauspicious start, a rich heritage grew and flourished.

As in other large American cities, the face of Philadelphia boxing changed as various ethnic groups moved to the area and struggled to improve their position on the socioeconomic scale. Irish-Americans like O'Brien eventually gave way to Jewish fighters like Battling Levinsky, who won the 175-pound title in 1919, and Italian-Americans like Wolgast, who captured the flyweight belt in 1930. But it was the migration of African-Americans from the rural south to the industrial north that brought Philadelphia boxing perhaps its greatest influx of fighting talent.

There have been several golden ages of Philadelphia boxing. From the late-'20s up until the start of World War II, boxing could be seen live three or four nights a week at venues ranging from huge baseball stadiums to hole-in-the-wall neighborhood clubs. Among the venues were the Broadway, the Arena, Convention Hall, the Olympia, and the Cambria, which was known as "The Bucket Of Blood." In the years that followed, Herman Taylor and Russell Peltz were promotional giants, and Champ's Gym, Joe Frazier's Gym, and especially the 23rd PAL are the gyms that produced the champions.



Rocky Marciano pummels Jersey Joe Walcott at Municipal Stadium

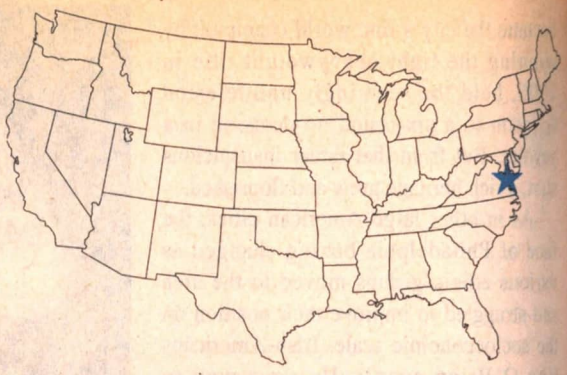


Bennie Briscoe aims for Karl Vinson at the Spectrum

There was a down period during the early-'60s, but by the '70s, stars such as Briscoe, Tyrone Everett, and Saad Muhammad had revitalized the sport to the point where the Spectrum had a monthly boxing program that rivaled that of Madison Square Garden and the Fabulous Forum.

The advent of casino gambling in nearby Atlantic City killed Philadelphia as a site for major promotions, but the city's legacy perseveres, both in the quality of the fighters it continues to produce and on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*, which is telecast from the Blue Horizon about eight times a year. It is at this seedy, 1,200-seat hall that the past and the present merge in a unique fashion that has made the venue a cherished piece of Americana. To be at the Blue on fight night is to experience the heart and soul of Philadelphia boxing, and also to understand why it will always be in the forefront of America's boxing cities.

BALTIMORE

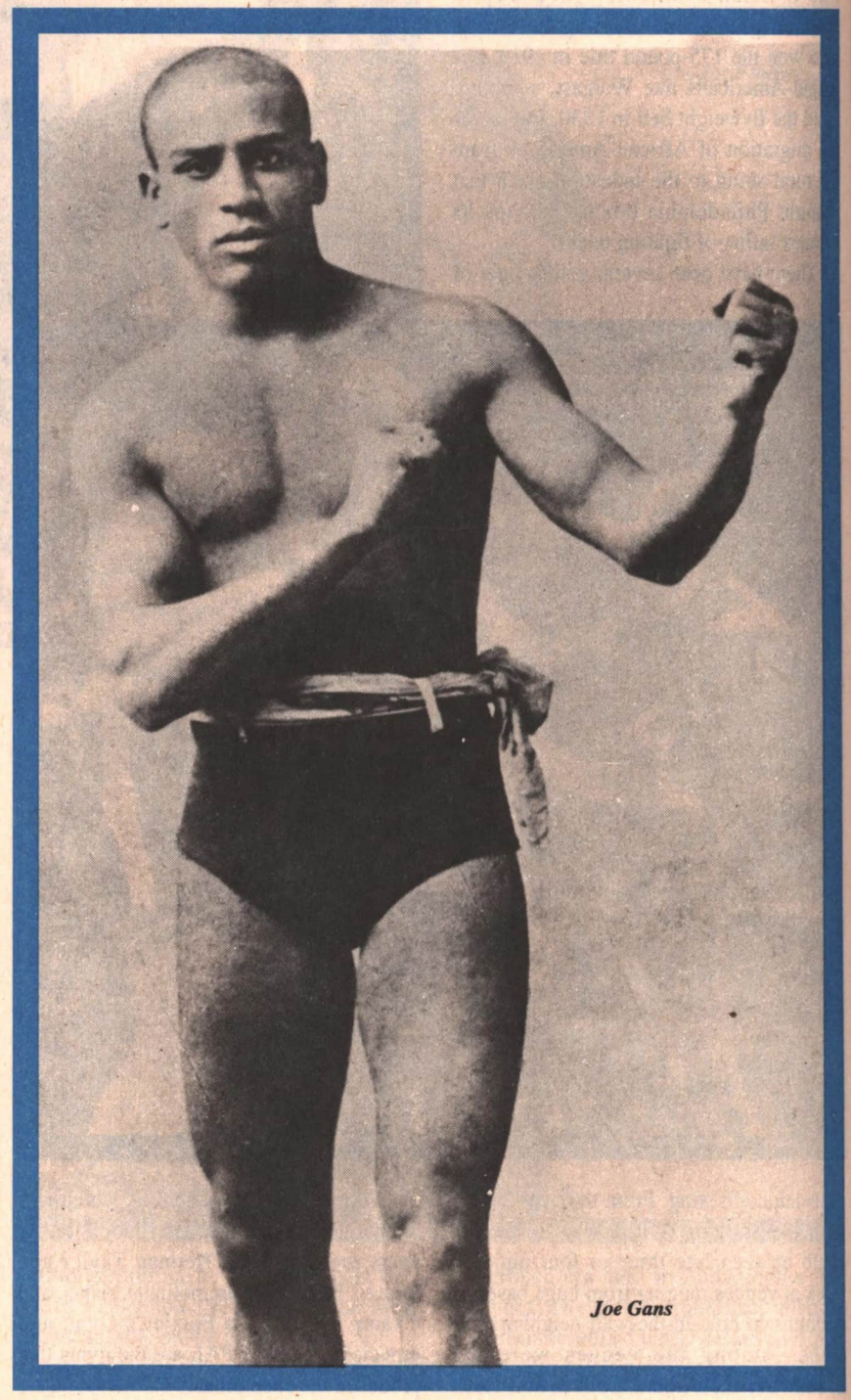


The Top 10 Of Baltimore

1. Joe Gans
2. Harry Jeffra
3. Kid Williams
4. George (KO) Chaney
5. Joe Dundee
6. Vince Dundee
7. Vincent Pettway
8. Red Burman
9. Jimmy McAllister
10. Jack Portney

The Best Fight

Ralph Palladin W 10 Johnny Doyan, *Steelworkers Hall, October 1, 1968:* Future middleweight contender Palladin and Montana cowboy Doyan brawl for 10 unforgettable rounds, with both fighters crashing twice. "I'd love to fight him in the streets," Doyan said afterward. "He wouldn't have a chance."



Joe Gans

By Al Goldstein

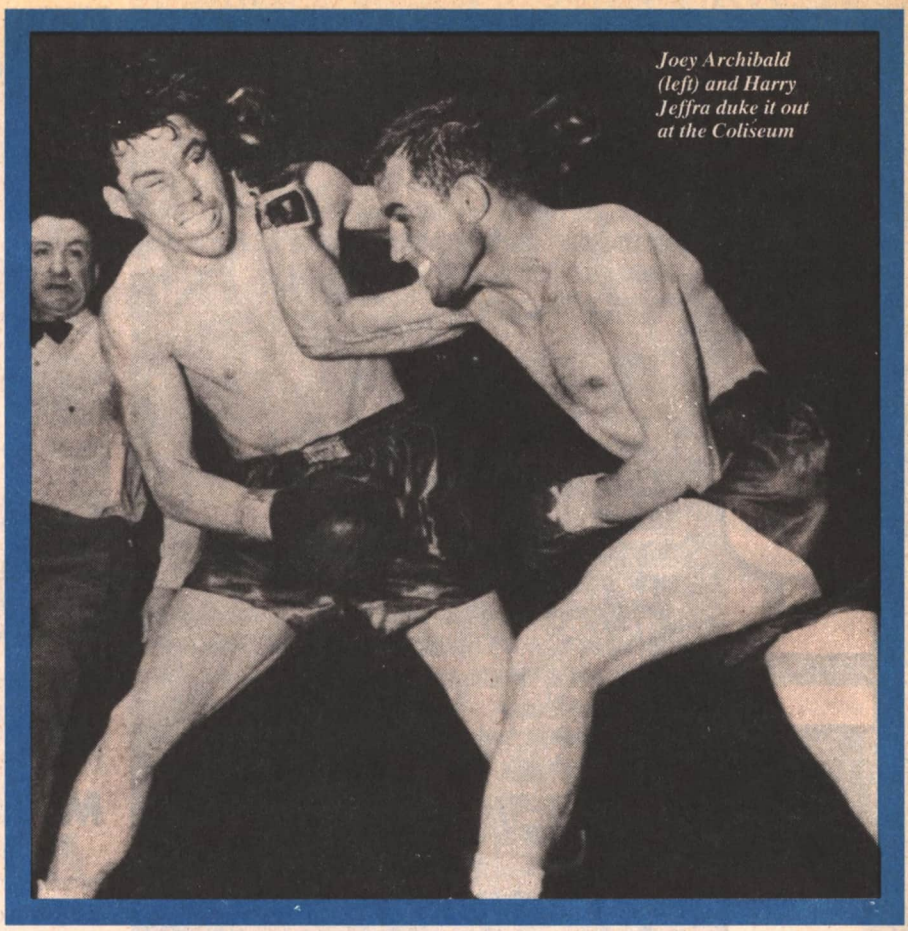
Baltimore's rich and colorful boxing history dates back to the turn of the century, when Gans, known as "The Master," was displaying the ring artistry that would earn him the reputation as one of the greatest lightweights of all-time. Most of Gans' title fights were held out West, and only one, vs. Gus Gardner in 1902, took place in Baltimore, at Germania Maennerchor Hall. Before regaining the world title by defeating Battling Nelson in 1906, he received a telegram from his mother that read, "Joe, the eyes of the world are on you. Bring back the bacon to Baltimore." Gans was clutching the telegram when he climbed through the ropes.

Gans was the first of six world champions to represent Baltimore. Next in line was the Denmark-born Kid Williams, a mean-

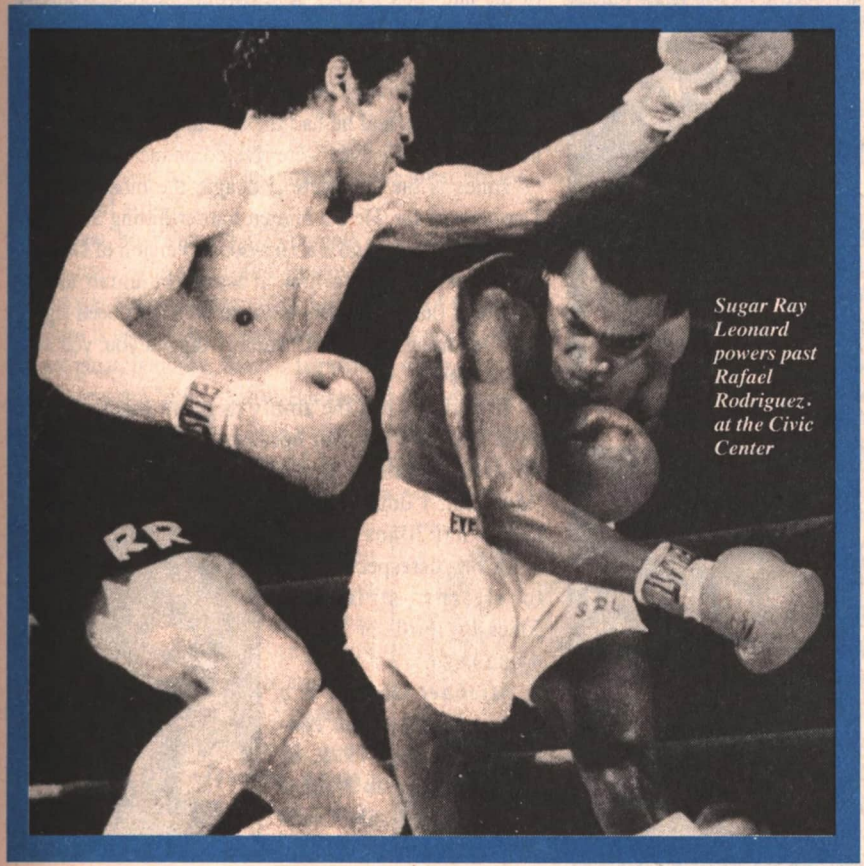
spirited bantamweight with a powerful punch that backed up his nasty disposition. Like Gans, Williams fought his title fights elsewhere, but 82 of his 202 career bouts took place in Baltimore.

In the '20s and '30s, Baltimore was well-represented by the Dundee brothers, Joe, a welterweight, and Vince, a middleweight. Both won world titles. In the late-'30s, the diminutive Jeffra ushered in Baltimore's golden era of boxing. After winning only one of his 24 amateur bouts, he blossomed under the tutelage of master trainer Heinie Blaustein and went on to win the world bantamweight and featherweight titles. In 1940, Jeffra won the 126-pound crown by outpointing Joey Archibald at the Coliseum in Baltimore. He successfully defended against Spider Armstrong at Carlin's Park, and in 1942 lost a title fight to then-champion Chalky Wright at Oriole Park.

For the next decade, promoters Lou Fisher and George Goldberg made Baltimore boxing's second city to New York by staging shows 52 weeks a year at Carlin's Park and later the Coliseum. Archie Moore, then a middleweight, fought 21 times in Baltimore, including memorable battles with Lloyd Marshall, Jimmy Bivins, and George Kochan. Other colorful fighters of that era were Curtis "Hatchet Man" Sheppard, who came into the ring in full Indian dress, Cocoa Kid, and Burman, who unsuccessfully challenged heavyweight champion Joe Louis in 1941.



Joey Archibald (left) and Harry Jeffra duke it out at the Coliseum



Sugar Ray Leonard powers past Rafael Rodriguez at the Civic Center

After Fisher and Goldberg retired, local promoting was left to Benny Trotta, Al Flora, and, in the '70s, colorful Eli Hanover. Sugar Ray Robinson, Sonny Liston, Don Jordan, and Muhammad Ali (in an exhibition) made appearances here. Sugar Ray Leonard, who was based in Palmer Park, Maryland, made his pro debut at the Civic Center in 1977, earning $40,000 for whipping Luis Vega in a six-rounder. He would fight four more times in Baltimore, but never in a world title fight.

Former junior middleweight champion Pettway successfully defended the crown at the USAir Arena in nearby Landover vs. neighbor Simon Brown. Their brawl was among the best fights of 1995. Pettway now waits in line for another try at the title—and another opportunity to add more glory to his native Baltimore. ■

Al Goldstein is a boxing writer for the Baltimore Sun.

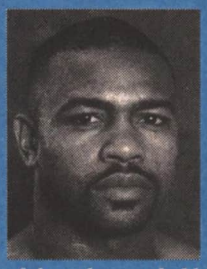
BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Super Middleweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Roy Jones

Pensacola, Florida
Career: 1989-Present
30-0 with 26 kayos



After a painfully slow start to his pro career, Jones is now a two-division champion and a budding superstar whose potential hasn't yet been fully realized.

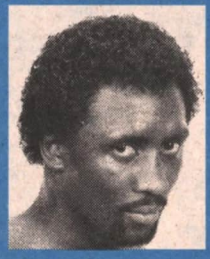
The 5'10" Jones is quick, powerful, and remarkably cool under fire. He first played the international stage at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, where he was denied a gold medal by one of the worst decisions in amateur boxing history.

From 1989 to '93, and until he split with father/trainer Roy Sr., he stagnated, remaining unbeaten, but defeating mostly second-level opposition. In May 1993, he outpointed Bernard Hopkins to claim the vacant IBF middleweight title. After one defense, he rose to super middleweight and, in the most anticipated fight of 1994, nearly shut out defending IBF titlist James Toney. With that victory, Jones also moved to the top of the pound-for-pound listings.

He's twice defended the super middleweight title, having beaten Antoine Byrd and Tony Thornton. It's anticipated he'll soon rise to light heavyweight.

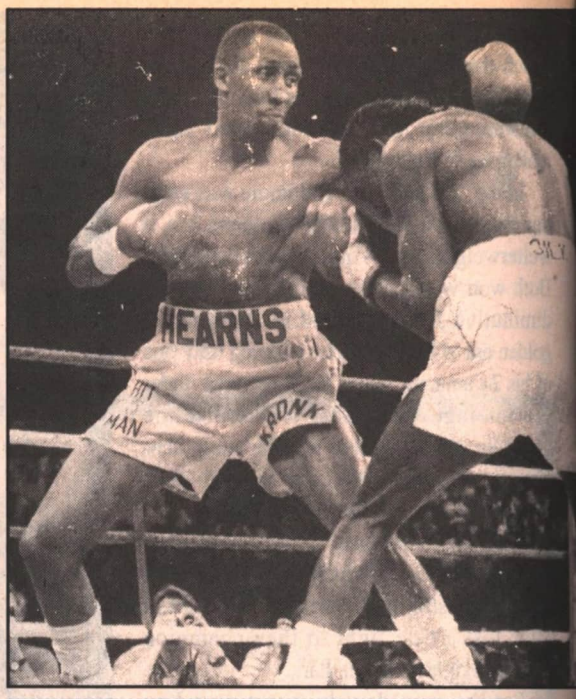
Thomas Hearns

Detroit, Michigan
Career: 1977-Present
55-4-1 with 43 kayos



A world champion at welterweight, junior middleweight, middleweight, and light heavyweight, Hearns seems a sure bet to enter the Hall of Fame on the first ballot. Campaigning at cruiserweight, he fights on at age 37. "The Hit Man" isn't as dangerous as he was in the '80s, when he was the most exciting fighter of the decade, but he remains a gifted boxer.

After losing the WBC middleweight title to Iran Barkley, Hearns made a stop at super middleweight from 1988 to 1990. He barely edged James Kinchen, scored two knockdowns in a controversial draw vs. arch-rival Sugar Ray Leonard, and outpointed Michael Olajide. He reentered the light heavyweight ranks shortly after, and dethroned WBA champion Virgil Hill in June 1991. He's fought at 175 or 190 pounds ever since.



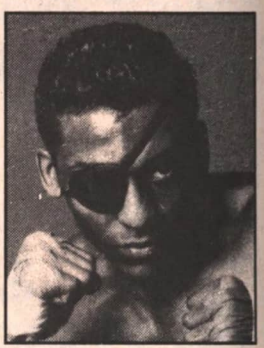
Hearns fought sparingly at 168 pounds. Among his wins was a decision over Michael Olajide in 1990. "The Hit Man" now campaigns at cruiserweight.

MICHAEL OLAJIDE

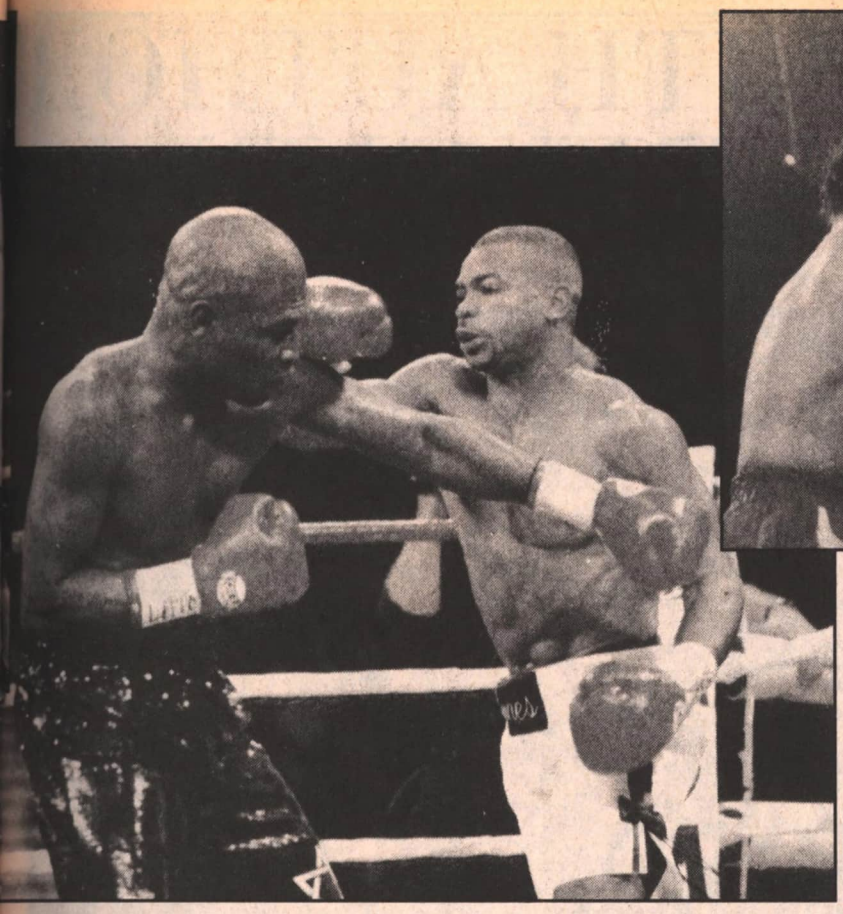
The first thing Hearns liked to do was play the intimidation card. There was a certain stature with him, and you were aware of his presence. Against the Hearns of the late-'80s, I think Jones would be respectful, like he was against Bernard Hopkins. Hearns often fought the other guy's fight, but he had the skills to do it. As always, the intangible would be his power. He was heavy-handed, and he had the speed, too. And I remember his focus; his eyes were riveted on me.

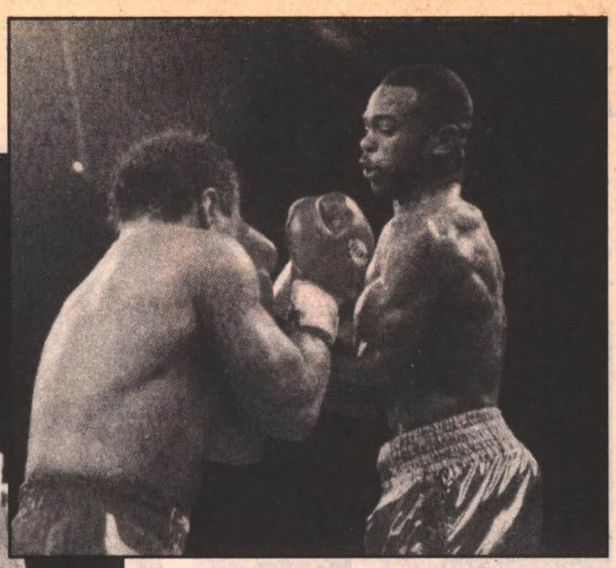
Jones is the complete package, the most complete I've seen so far. He's a bigger, harder-hitting Sugar Ray Leonard. It would take a 165-pound version of Duran to bring out the best in him. It would be unfair to pass judgment on Jones' chin because he hasn't been tagged yet. One thing, though: If Tommy tagged you, you were gonna react.

If anybody had the ability to get to Jones, it would have been Hearns. But because of his defensive deficiencies, Hearns wouldn't be the fighter I'd choose to fight him. I don't know if Hearns would be able to take what Jones brings. With no disrespect meant to Hearns, styles say Jones by third- or fourth-round kayo.



Michael Olajide is a former middleweight contender. In April 1990, he lost a decision to Hearns in a 12-round super middleweight bout.





Jones is a boxer-puncher who attacks from creative angles, as Vinny Pazienza discovered in June 1995. Paz was stopped in six rounds.

The biggest win of Jones' career came at super middleweight, a one-sided points win over the previously unbeaten James Toney in 1994.

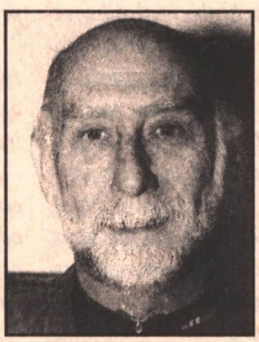
STAN HOFFMAN

Hearns was the epitome of fine boxing. He turned into a slugger, and during that transition, which came around the time he won the welterweight title, he was virtually unbeatable. By the time he reached 168 pounds, however, his punches began to lose their impact, and he couldn't maintain the great boxing and movement he had at 147.

By then, he was maybe 75 percent of what he had been, and he got by partly on name and image. But 75 percent of Thomas Hearns was still a lot more than 110 percent of most other guys.

Jones is obviously a sensation, a sensational boxer and a good, but not great, puncher. What's happening to him happened to guys like Hearns and Mike Tyson: Because of his advance notice, guys get intimidated and don't fight to the best of their abilities.

The fact that Hearns would be far more experienced would work in Jones' favor. Jones will have seen what Hearns has, while Jones remains a mystery. Hearns would try and outbox Jones early, and Jones would show respect and box, too. It would be a chess match until the seventh or eighth round, when Jones would connect, then follow up with 13 or 15 punches, bringing the referee's stoppage.



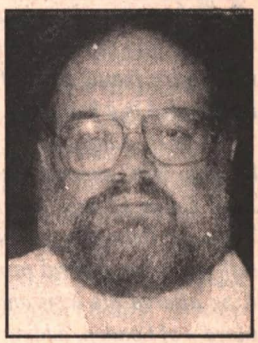
Stan Hoffman manages, among others, James Toney, who lost a decision to Jones in 1994.

MICHAEL KATZ

At 168 pounds, Hearns was a shot fighter. To compare that Hearns to the fighter that was great at welterweight is ludicrous. His best fight at 168 was when he got all the oil and vinegar out of his system against Sugar Ray Leonard. His other two fights at the weight—oh, my goodness! If *James Kinchen* almost had him out ...

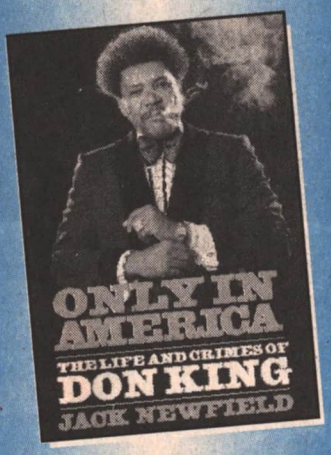
Jones should be fighting at 160 pounds. I think 168's a stretch. How good is he? He needs Thomas Hearns to test him, but the Hearns at 160, not 168. Jones' biggest weakness is his opposition. There's no one to measure him against. He beat a James Toney who wasn't in physical, emotional, or mental shape. I want to see Jones get hit by somebody with a hammer. If he takes it and then punches the guy out, fine. He'll probably have to fight bigger guys. I'd like to see him against Virgil Hill, Buster Mathis Jr., Jeremy Williams. I don't see any competition for him at his weight, unless some middleweight grows up quickly.

I think Jones would be reticent to go for an early knockout. Hearns always had a puncher's chance, and he had fast hands, too. Jones would soften Hearns up and take him out in the seventh or eighth round.

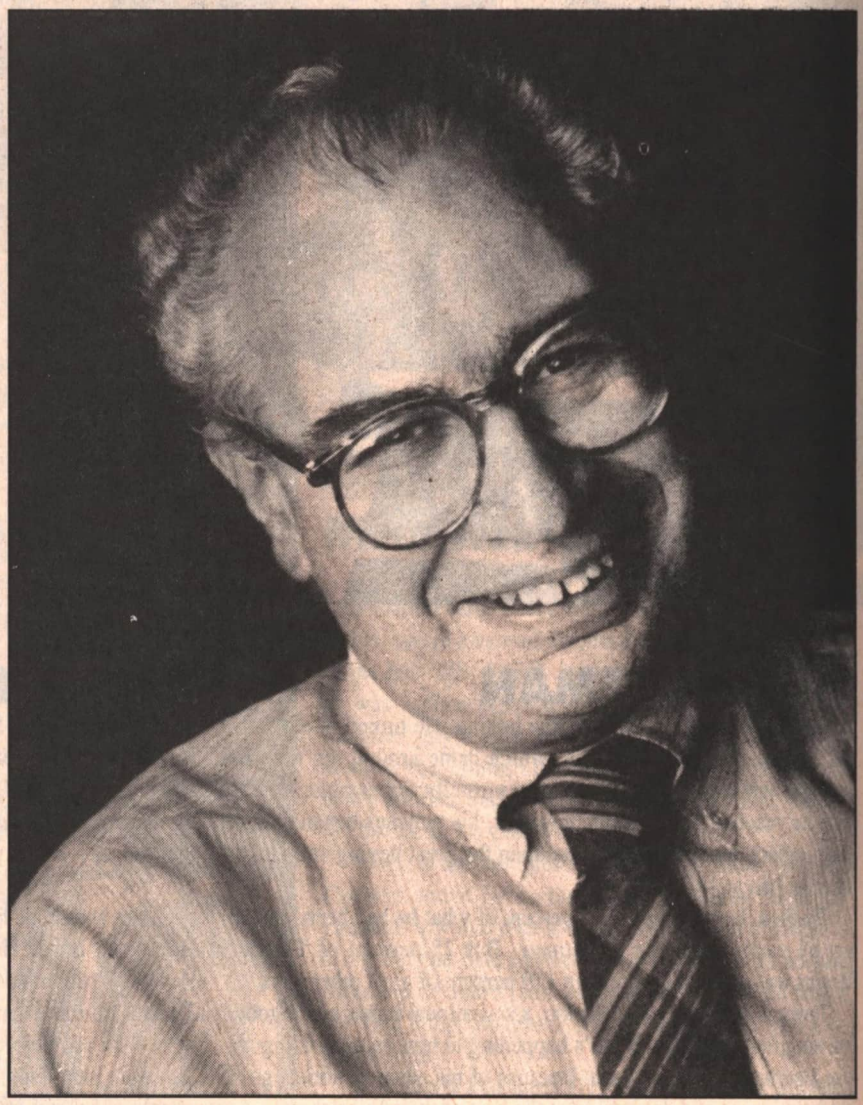


Michael Katz is a boxing writer and columnist for the New York Daily News. ■

A Q & A WITH AUTHOR JACK NEWFIELD



"Don King Is The Smartest, Most Resilient, Most Interesting, Most Colorful, Most Tragic Character Of All"



When you're the defending champion, a draw is as good as a win, and in November, the nearly six-week wire fraud trial of promoter Don King ended in a hung jury.

In 1991, King was to promote a fight between WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Brazier. When the fight was canceled after Chavez suffered a cut, federal prosecutors alleged King altered his insurance contract with Lloyd's of London, adding a rider claiming that he had lost $350,000 in non-refundable training expenses. At the trial, Chavez testified that he had never seen or signed the contract King had submitted to Lloyd's, and that he had never received any portion of the $350,000. And Joe Maffia, King's former comptroller, testified that the promoter had told him to submit a false claim to Lloyd's. King's defense: When the fight was canceled, he assumed his accountants would handle the insurance claim.

Had King been found guilty, he would have faced a maximum of five years in prison and a $2.25-million fine.

It is anticipated that King, 64, will be retried in the spring, with the possibility of additional counts being added to the indictment.

During the trial, the visitors to the courtroom in downtown Manhattan included Jack Newfield, 57, an award-winning columnist and investigative reporter for the ***New York Post.***

In the fall of 1995, Newfield's critically

acclaimed book, Only In America: The Life And Crimes Of Don King, *was published by William Morrow & Co. Inc. (HBO recently bought the film rights.) Newfield has been a King-watcher for years, and shortly after the trial, Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood interviewed the writer at his apartment in New York City. Among the topics: the trial, King's place in boxing, and the promoter's future.*

The Ring: Do you remember what you first thought when you heard Don King had been indicted for wire fraud?

Jack Newfield: My first thought was that this is truly ironic. That a man so often accused of cheating fighters gets indicted for robbing from the world's biggest insurance syndicate. As I said in the book, it was a little like trying to get Al Capone on tax evasion after he had ordered 50 gangland executions.

The Ring: Do you feel the government has it for King because he's escaped so many times in the past?

JN: I think there is an institutional interest in the Southern District's prosecutor's office to bring King to justice, partly because of the '85 acquittal (when King was tried for tax evasion), and partly because they deeply believe he has committed crimes that, because he is so smart, they haven't been able to prove. To me, King is like the movie *The Usual Suspects.* I thought the point of the movie was that sometimes the bad guy is smarter than the good guys. And if you're the good guy trying to get the bad guy and you know he's smarter than you, there's a lot of incentive to prove you're *not* dumber than the bad guy.

The Ring: One of the things that makes King so smart is his ability to read people and take advantage of their vulnerabilities. But you'd think that in a legal sense, King vs. the government would be a mismatch. It hasn't proven to be that way.

JN: I think Don is really smart. I've written about a lot of politicians, a lot of businessmen, and I think Don is smarter than Newt Gingrich, smarter than Donald Trump. In the book, I quote Tom Puccio, who is a prominent defense lawyer and former prosecutor who was briefly Bill Cayton's lawyer. He said Don King was the smartest person he ever questioned under oath. And he's questioned Ivan Boesky under oath and Congressman John Murphy.

I think Don is a first-class mind, and he's a workaholic, and he's incredibly resilient, and he's got a lotta balls. In the book, I try to say he's so talented, I view him as a tragic figure.

The Ring: Is there another side to his intelligence beside his ability to read people and manipulate them?

JN: I think he understands the psychology of fighters brilliantly. I think he's able to intimidate fighters. Fighters who could knock him out with one punch are afraid of him. I thought it was astounding that after [King's] 20 years at the top of boxing, Julio Cesar Chavez is the first fighter to ever testify against him in public. Larry Holmes wouldn't do it, Saoul Mamby wouldn't do it. A lot of good people, and great fighters, were somehow afraid of him.

The Ring: One of the most interesting things about your book was that you reported King has used physical threats to keep control of his fighters.

JN: When I was interviewing Tim Witherspoon, he was walking around with two guns. He was afraid for his life. David Bey was scared to death. Holmes said on the record [in an interview by author Sam Toperoff for a book that was never published] that Don threatened to break his legs and hurt his family. In the earlier federal investigation, Holmes knew King was already looking for younger fighters like Greg Page and Michael Dokes to replace him, and he still wouldn't testify. He with-

(Continued on page 74)

FORMER WORLD CHAMP FREDDIE LITTLE

The High School Teacher Who Failed Geography

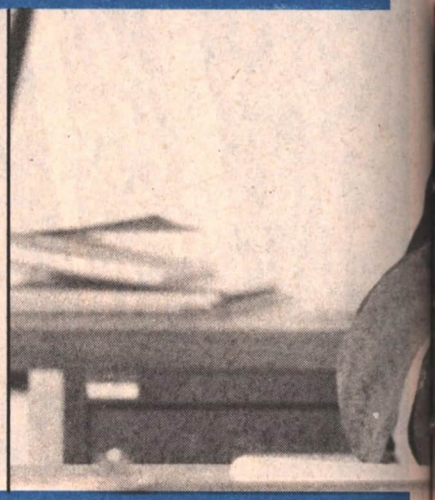
By Pete Ehrmann

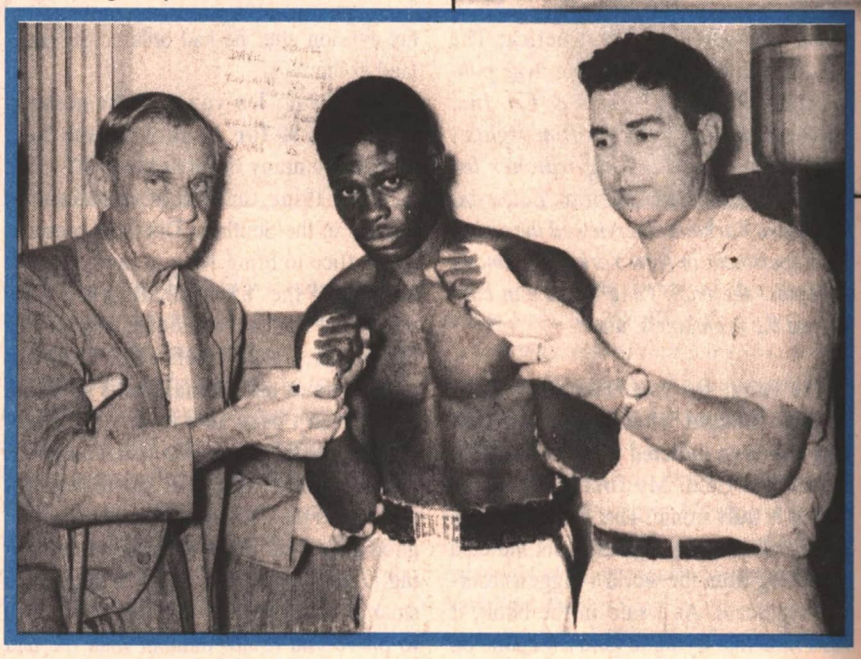
If all the boxers who ever lost a hometown decision got together and had a contest to see who had been robbed worst, Freddie Little would win hands down.

But then, fittingly, the prize would probably be given to somebody else. And instead of ranting, throwing chairs against the wall, or running away to Italy to make bad action movies, the former junior middleweight champion of the world would just smile and make the best of the situation.

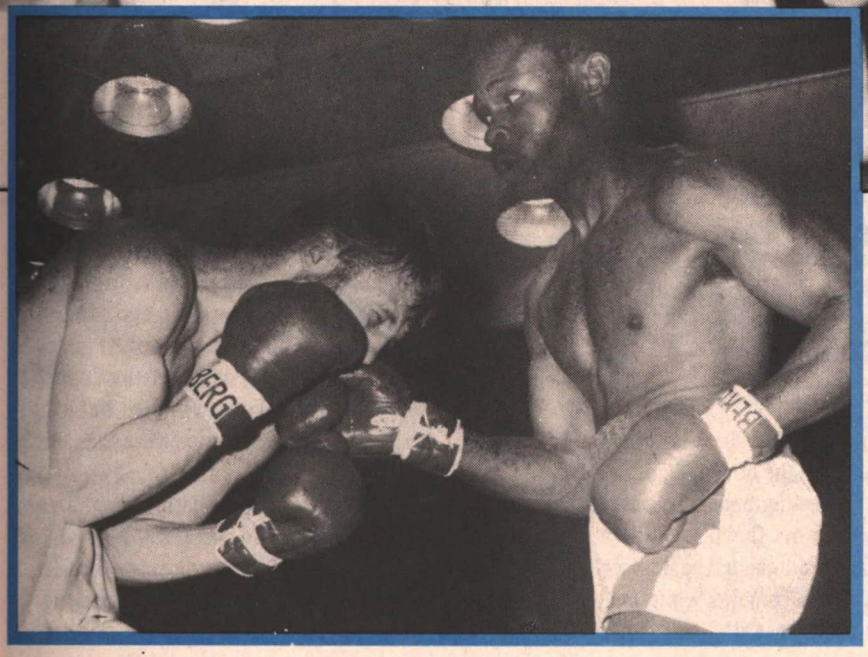
"You have to experience some downs before you can enjoy the life of being up," said the 59-year-old Little, who finally won the undisputed 154-pound crown in 1969, and after two diabolical efforts to keep it from him that had everybody in an uproar but Little himself.

He is a soft-spoken, thoughtful man, as befitting a college graduate and former





Little poses with trainer Whitey Esneault (left) and manager James Stevenson in Bogalusa, Louisiana. As a teenager in Mississippi, Little chose boxing over football.



Little was used to fighting on the road. In March 1970, he retained the world junior middleweight title by outpointing Gerhard Piaskowy in Berlin. He lost the title four months later.

teacher who is now chief equal employment opportunity officer for the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles in Carson City.

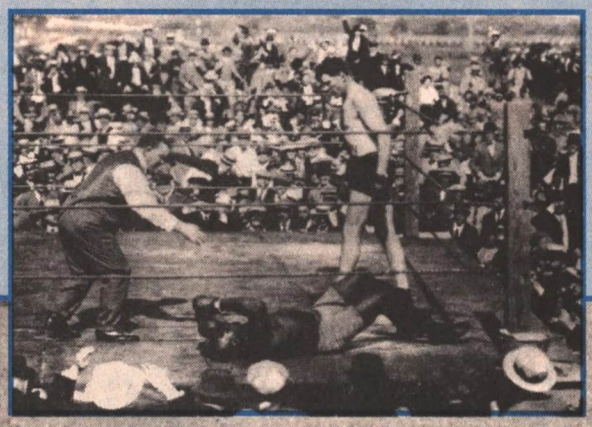
Education was stressed above all else in his boyhood home in Picyune, Mississippi, where Little was one of seven children. His mother told him, "Son, you're the eldest, and you must set examples for your

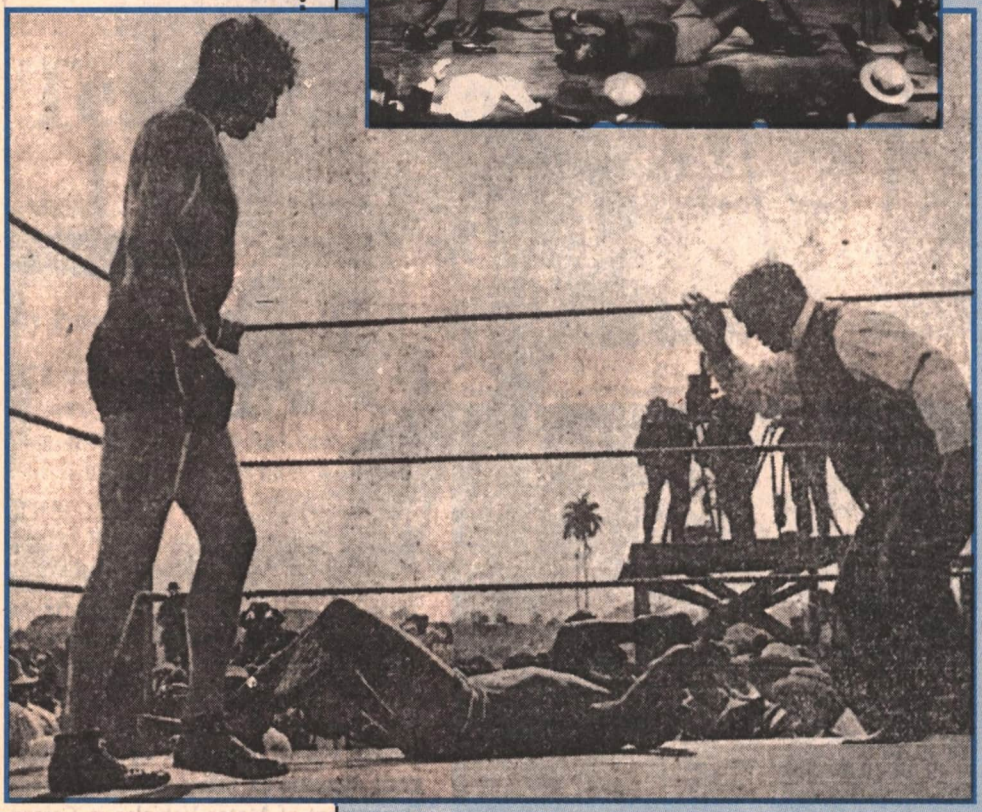
(Continued on page 76)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

ANOTHER VIEW





A photo recently discovered in a vintage scrapbook shows a new view of the controversial knockout of Jack Johnson by Jess Willard at a Havana racetrack in 1915. The photo reveals things not shown in the famous picture of the historic fight (top).

(April 5, 1915)

The most famous and controversial boxing photograph ever taken shows Jack Johnson, in the waning moments of his long reign as heavyweight champion of the world, lying flat on his back, but shielding his face from the blistering sun, on the scorching canvas of a ring pitched in the center of a Havana, Cuba, racetrack, with the towering figure of Jess Willard standing menacingly over him. That unforgettable image has been reproduced millions of times in magazines and newspapers around the world, and is a fixture in every book about boxing's tumultuous history.

Of course many other pictures were recorded on that memorable day long ago. But none captured the intense drama and true essence of the event as did that one shot. And most important, none of the others showed Johnson shading his eyes from that 120-degree sun ... not until just a few days ago, when a vintage scrapbook revealed another view of the famous knockout which, I believe, few if any historians have ever seen. It was taken at exactly the same moment as the other image, but from the other side of the ring.

Most interesting about the new discovery is that the profile view of Willard's upper torso clearly proves his flawless physical condition. And in the background, behind the referee's uplifted hand, silhouetted against a cloudless sky, pioneer cinematographers grind away on their primitive movie cameras while generating a film that caused worldwide controversy and triggered the haunting, still-unanswered question: Did Jack Johnson take a dive?

PROS DON'T BLEED FOR FREE

(August 30, 1908)

The fact that one was a lightweight and the other a featherweight was of no consequence. But when it came to pitting them against each other, the fact that each in his own right had, during the first decade of the 20th century, achieved immortality proved to be an insurmountable obstacle.

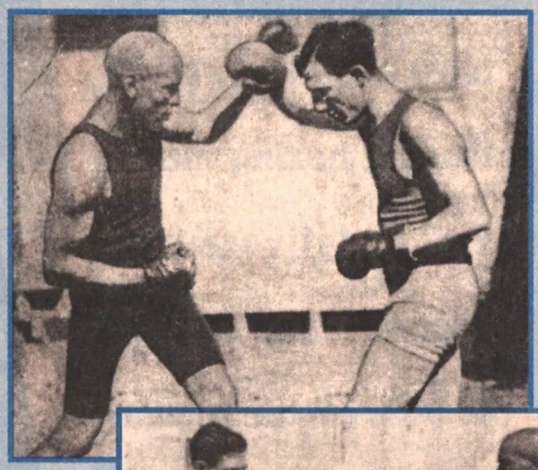
Boxing's two master promoters of the time, Tex Rickard and Jim Coffroth, tried desperately but unsuccessfully to entice Joe Gans and Abe Attell into a fight. In 1926, Rickard would tell renowned journalist and boxing authority Hype Igoe, "I always considered Attell the greatest all-around fighter I ever saw, and I wanted to make Attell-Gans just as much as I wanted to make Jeffries-Johnson and Dempsey-Tunney years later. I made those two, but Attell-Gans just got away from me. Too bad. It might have been the finest boxing match in history."

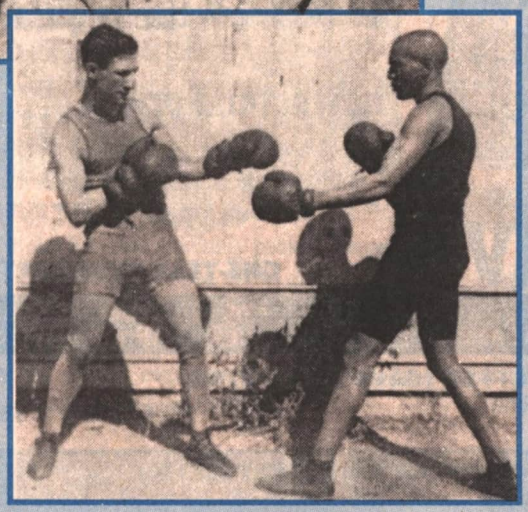
The generally accepted theory why Attell never fought Gans: Each had severe doubts about victory. In other words, they were, understandably, afraid of each other. It probably was just that simple.

But Attell and Gans did, on one historic occasion, indeed match their remarkable skills. It was purely a chance meeting, not inside a ring, mind you, but memorable enough to cause one who saw it, Rickard himself, to remark, "This was the cleverest exhibition ever staged by fighters of their high ranking." As you can see, Tex, while a genius at promotion, had a problem with words.

Both Attell and Gans happened to be training for very important world championship bouts at Croll's Gardens, a rickety amusement park in the San Francisco suburb of Alameda, California. One morning, about a week before their scheduled fights, Abe and Joe happened to pass each other when returning to camp after pre-dawn roadwork when a photographer from the *San Francisco Examiner* named Ezra Molton asked them to pose for a picture. During the entire month they had been training at Croll's Gardens, the fighters had exchanged no words. If they happened to meet, the only acknowledgement was a casual nodding of heads. But now they were suddenly forced into a situation where a refusal could easily be construed as unsportsmanlike.

Abe and Joe were heading for the showers when asked to pose. "Can we get some gloves?" asked Molton. One of Gans' trainers scrounged up one pair of regulation gloves and a pair of bag gloves. The gloves didn't match, but it was the best that could be done.





Above: Gans (bald head) and Attell pose for a photo early in the morning. Top: Later that day, wearing training gloves, the immortals sparred four rounds. It was the closest they ever came to a fight.

As the two masters went through the motions and Molton clicked away, the cunning mind of Attell's manager, Al Lippe, was also clicking away. Always anxious for an Attell-Gans title fight bonanza (the following week, Gans would be attempting to regain the lightweight title from Battling Nelson), Lippe pounced on the idea of extending this photo session into "a friendly four-round exhibition." Attell, certainly the shrewdest businessman-fighter in history, also sensed gold in the idea and leaped at the chance. Gans consented without hesitation. Casual bystander Rickard, promoter of the forthcoming Gans-Nelson bout, visualizing huge dollar signs, offered to round up "a couple of pair of real boxing gloves" for the occasion. Rickard also managed to round up the four major sports reporters in the San Francisco area.

Unfortunately, what they saw failed to impress the reporters, and their published coverage ranged from minimal to non-existent. Tad Dorgan, probably the most respected boxing authority of that time, and a favorite of Rickard's, received the royal treatment when Tex arranged for what was the 1908 version of limousine service to transport Tad from his San Francisco hotel to Alameda, a four-hour ferry trip across the bay.

Rickard ordered the exhibition not to begin until Tad arrived at Croll's Gardens. Tad, a native San Franciscan, had started his career at the *San Francisco Bulletin*, but in 1904, went east to work for Hearst's *New York Evening Journal*. Now he was back in the Bay City to cover the Gans-Nelson fight for the *Journal*. For Dorgan, the unexpected opportunity to see extraordinary skills against each other, if only in mock combat, was more enticing than seeing Gans and Nelson at war.

But after watching his two idols deftly slip and block blows, clinch, clutch, and grimace through four two-minute rounds, Tad limoed back to his hotel across the bay, where he hammered out, as he would say years later, "two pages describing not even a legitimate exhibition. Joe and Abe seemed in utter awe of each other, acting as if they were priceless china dolls, not even to be scratched."

Back in New York, *Journal* editors chopped Tad's two-page report down to one short paragraph and tucked it into the last sports page, between a two-line piece titled "Harvard Crew Edges Yale" and a three-liner, "Pit Bull 'Teddy' Gets Chomped." Tad's piece winced under the evasive headline "Gans Beats Attell—Or Was It The Other Way Around?" He never answered the question. A more definitive headline would have been "Pros Don't Bleed For Free."

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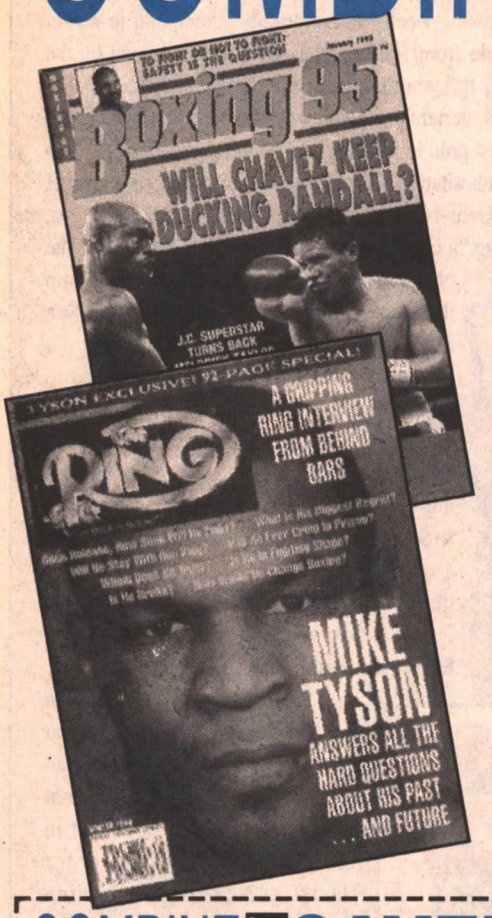

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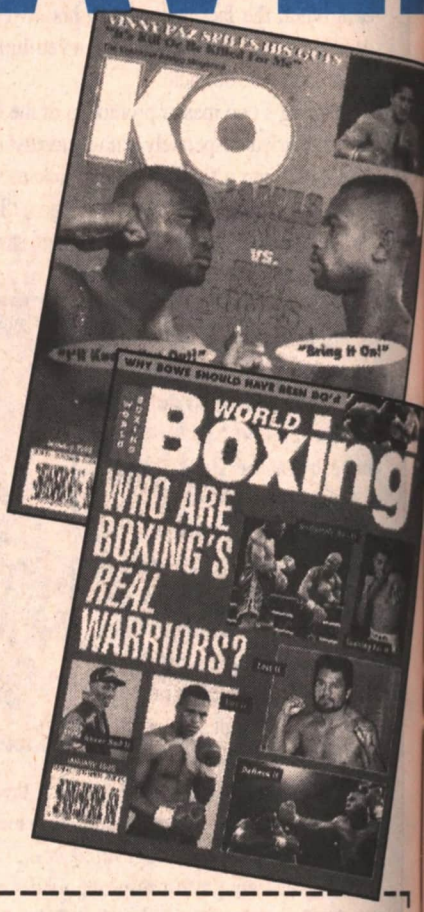

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NEW FACES

ENRIQUE SANCHEZ

Junior Featherweight

By Ivan G. Goldman

Watch knockout ace Enrique Sanchez long enough and eventually you ask, "Does this kid *ever* smile?"

After polishing off Alejandro Landeros in 18 seconds at the Great Western Forum, Sanchez, 23, who had already been designated the next great Mexican champion by the wizardly Nacho Beristain, looked as if he'd just suffered some hideous personal calamity.

The victory improved his record to 16-0 (14), but the southpaw looked sadder than loser Landeros. Back in the dressing room, while his cornermen celebrated the one-punch demolition (which set a record as the shortest fight in the history of the Forum), the lanky Sanchez solemnly packed his gear like a guy being shipped off to dig for anti-personnel mines in Bosnia.

There have been supposed sightings of Sanchez smiles, even laughter. But nobody has produced any hard evidence.

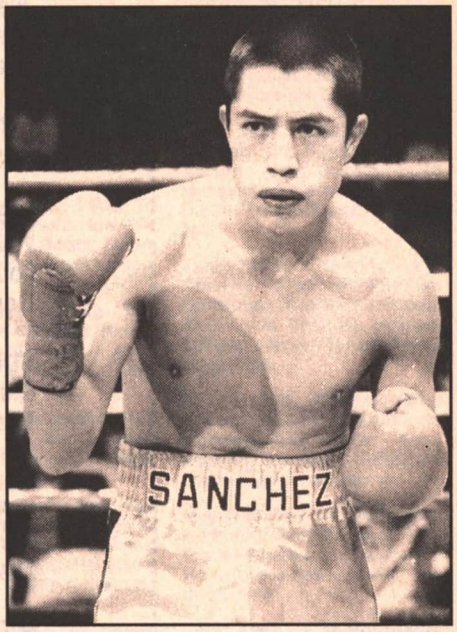
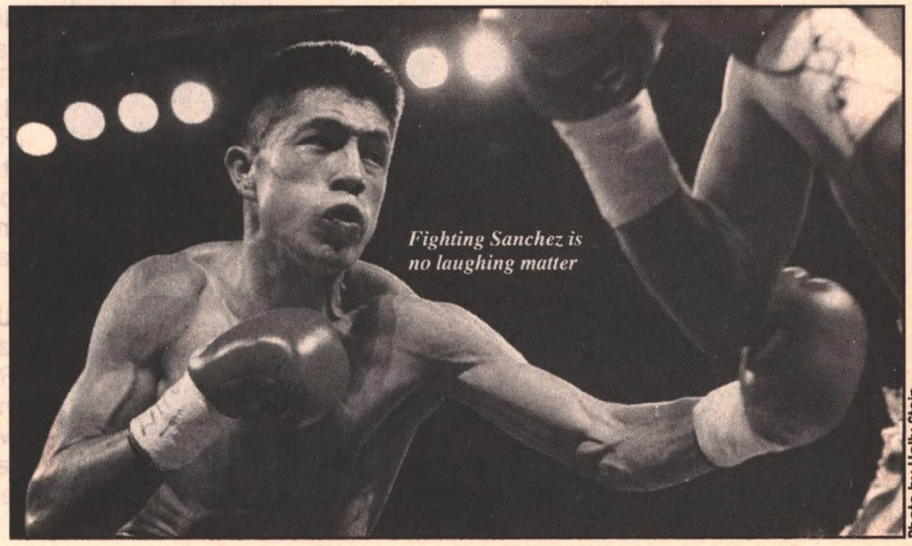


Photo by Brent Cook

"I saw him laugh while he was playing Nintendo with my kids," claimed manager

(Continued on page 80)



Fighting Sanchez is no laughing matter

Photo by Holly Stein

PRO RECORD

1990		
Dec. 15	Felipe Castillo, Mexico City	KO 4
1991		
Feb. 2	Jose Rangel, Mexico City	W 4
March 13	Raul Sanchez, Mexico City	KO 3
May 4	Isaac Reyes, Mexico City	KO 1
June 29	Marcos Hernandez, Mexico City	KO 2
1992		
Feb. 8	Arturo Bautista, Mexico City	KO 1
March 7	Jorge Romero, Mexico City	KO 5
June 6	Jose Rangel, Mexico City	W 6
1993		
Oct. 9	Moises Rodriguez, Mexico City	KO 6
1994		
March 4	Luis Lara, Naucalpan, Mexico	KO 1
April 22	Valente Flores, Naucalpan	KO 4
June 3	Julian Goiz, Tlalnepantla, Mexico	KO 1
Aug. 12	Victor Carpio, Mexico City	KO 2
1995		
July 8	Horacio Ramirez, Las Vegas	KO 2
Aug. 28	Luis Valenzuela, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
Oct. 23	Alejandro Landeros, Inglewood	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
16	16	0	0	14

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Alexandr Zolkin W 10 Anthony Willis
Tim Witherspoon KO 2 Tim Puller
Bobby Czyz KO 6 Ricky Jackson
Chris Byrd W 12 Phil Jackson
Alex Stewart KO 1 Terry Anderson
Andrew Golota KO 2 Jason Waller
Lou Savarese KO 2 Sean Hart
Justin Fortune KO 4 George O'Mara
Brian Nielsen KO 3 Carlos DeLeon
Brian Yates KO 2 Earnie Shavers

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Chris Okoh KO 1 Paul Lawson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
William Guthrie KO 4 Ricky Frazier
Louis Del Valle KO 5 Ken Wallace
Gary Ballard KO 4 Joel Soni

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Steve Collins W 12 Cornelius Carr
Thomas Tate W 12 Joseph Kiwanuka
Henry Wharton KO 4 Sam Storey
Mark Delaney W 12 Armando Angel Rodriguez
Daren Zenner W 10 Tyrone Frazier
Joe Gatti W 10 Tim Dendy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Andrew Council KO 1 Anthony Bryant
Robert Allen KO 9 Warren Williams
Neville Brown KO 5 Shaun Cummins
Robert McCracken W 12 Fitzgerald Bruney

Johnny Tapia fires at Willy Salazar

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Paul Jones W 12 Verno Phillips
Glenwood Brown W 10 Tony Marshall
Troy Waters KO 4 Kevin Pompey
Jorge Vaca KO 3 Jesus Ozuna
Donald Stokes KO 3 Ernest Johnson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Pernell Whitaker KO 6 Jake Rodriguez *(Retains WBC Title)*
Felix Trinidad KO 4 Larry Barnes *(Retains IBF Title)*
Vince Phillips KO 3 Mauro Gutierrez
Derrell Coley KO 1 Justice Carter
Wilfredo Rivera KO 2 Steve Larrimore
Adrian Stone KO 9 Roger Turner
James Page KO 2 Genaro Leon
Joey Gamache KO 8 Tony Enna
Gary Jacobs KO 3 Leigh Wicks
Ralph Jones KO 9 Rick McGill
Spike Cheney W 10 Patrick Coleman
Sharmba Mitchell KO 5 James Gatlin
Shannon Taylor KO 1 Livingstone Bramble
Diobelis Hurtado KO 1 Juan Martin Galvan

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Dingaan Thobela KO 9 Mark McCreath
Darryll Tyson W 10 David Taylor
Jorge Paez W 10 Anthony Johnson
Vernon Forrest W 12 Marlon Thomas
Soren Sondergaard KO 2 Manuel Hernandez
Larry LaCoursierre W 10 Mike Evgen
Louis Veader KO 1 Alex Ortiz
Andy Holligan KO 2 Allan Hall
Ruben Castillo W 10 Paco Cuesta

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Nazarov Orzubek W 12 Dindo Canoy *(Retains WBA Title)*
Philip Holiday W 12 Rocky Martinez *(Retains IBF Title)*
Steve Johnston KO 10 Jesus Rodriguez
John-John Molina KO 6 Eduardo Perez
Angel Mona W 12 Oscar Palomino
Sal Duran KO 4 Ramon Soto

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Azumah Nelson KO 5 Gabe Ruelas *(Regains WBC Title)*
Tracy Patterson KO 6 Bruno Rabanales *(Non-Title Fight)*
Santos Lopez KO 10 Ed Hopson
Jeff Fenech KO 8 Tito Tovar

Jacobin Yoma KO 2 Luis Antonio Ferreira
Angel Manfredy KO 7 Calvin Grove
David Toledo KO 5 Joe Lafontant
Louie Leija KO 4 Roy Muniz
Jimmi Bredahl W 8 Juan Polo-Perez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vasquez KO 1 Carlos Arturo Rocha
Jun Gorres KO 7 Chung Min Suh
November Ntshingila KO 2 Alberto Martinez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Antonio Cermeno W 12 Jesus Salud
(Retains WBA Title)
Junior Jones W 10 Albert Rendon
John Lewus KO 2 Dallas Hawkins
Mike Garcia KO 5 Fernando Gonzalez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Wayne McCullough KO 8 Johnny Bredahl
(Retains WBC Title)
Mbulelo Botile KO 2 Reynaldo Hurtado
(Retains IBF Title)
Ancee Gedeon KO 3 Chris Gomez
Yong Hoon Lee W 10 Lito Torrejos
Joel Luna Zarate W 10 Gabriel Mira
Angel Rosario KO 3 Efrain Pintor

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Hiroshi Kawashima KO 3 Boy Aruan
(Retains WBC Title)
Johnny Tapia KO 9 Willy Salazar
Polo Saucedo W 10 Cecilio Espino

FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal KO 3 Francisco Montiel

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Saman Sorjaturong KO 4 Yuichi Hosono
(Retains WBC & IBF Titles)
Jake Matlala KO 5 Paul Weir
Shiro Yahiro W 12 Sang Ik Yang

STRAWWEIGHTS
Rosendo Alvarez W 12 Chana Porpaoin
(Wins WBA Title)
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin KO 2 Jack Russell
(Retains IBF Title)
Nene Sanchez KO 1 Pablo Tiznado

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July 1979: Holmes-Norton II: Ali Picks The Winner—And Tells Why! Also: Young, Bobick, Madison Square Garden anniversary, Davis.

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July 1981: The Welterweights: Where They Stand Today. Also: Saad Muhammad, WBA champs vs. WBC champs, Shavers, Conn.

Sept. 1981: Rating The Punchers: The Hardest Hitters In Each Division. Also: Cooney-Norton, Scypion-Parker, Walker, Marciano-Frazier dream fight.

March 1982: Big-Fight Issue! Ringside Reports! Holmes-Snipes, Spinks-Johnson, Young-Thomas, O'Grady-Ganigan. Also: Olivares-Zarate dream fight.

May 1982: Holmes-Cooney ... Exclusive Preview—Who Will Win And Why. Also: Braxton, Antuofermo, Dempsey, Duran-Arguello dream fight.

July 1982: Tomorrow's Champions: A Midterm Report Card. Also: LaMotta, Napoles, Czyz, Ramos, Saad Muhammad-Moore dream fight.

Sept. 1982: The Fights We'd Like To See—Leonard-Hagler, Spinks-Braxton, Benitez-Ayala Jr., Arguello-Sanchez, Weaver-Dokes. Also: Liston-Foreman dream fight.

Jan. 1983: An Open Letter To Gerry Cooney: Fight Now—Or Forget It! Also: LaMotta, Duran, Corbett, Palomino-Gavilan dream fight.

March 1983: Rating The Punchers: The Hardest Hitters In Each Division. Also: Armstrong, Fitzsimmons, Graziano-Griffith dream fight.

May 1983: Special Section: 1982 In Review. Also: Ellis, Jeffries, month-by-month pictures, Holmes-Frazier dream fight.

July 1983: Michael Dokes: How He Can Restore The Decayed WBA Title. Also: Torres, Burns, young heavyweights, Patterson-Johansson, Pryor-Armstrong dream fight.

Sept. 1983: How The Champions Compare Against One Another. Also: Johnson, Wonderful Year: 1969, Cuevas, Leonard-Napoles dream fight.

Nov. 1983: The Experts Rate Today's Fighters: The Best Of The Best. Willard, Madison Square Garden, Petrolle, Mancini-Buchanan dream fight.

March 1984: Suppose Sugar Ray Leonard Never Retired, Part I. Also: Tunney, lightweights, Pep-Pedroza dream fight.

May 1984: 1983 In Review: A Photographic Bonanza. Also: Schmeling, Leonard—Part II, month-by-month retrospective, Spinks-Foster dream fight.

Sept. 1984: Gerry Cooney's Comeback: The 12 Herculean Tasks He Must Complete. Also: Sharkey, Wonderful Year: 1958, Hagler-Roldan, Gomez-LaPorte, Holmes-Foreman dream fight.

Nov. 1984: Championship Corner: 60 Days Of Title Action. Also: Griffith, Saad Muhammad, Carnera, Hearns-Duran, Hagler-Monzon dream fight.

Jan. 1985: Championship Corner: Pinklon Thomas Dethrones Tim Witherspoon. Also: Louis, Baer, Ali, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Hearns-Basilio dream fight.

March 1985: Championship Corner: Larry Holmes vs. Bonecrusher Smith. Also: Monzon, Braddock, Collins Jr., Duran-Pryor dream fight.

May 1985: The Year In Review: A Photographic Bonanza. Also: Frazier-Foreman, Louis, Hagler-Hearns preview, Ali-Cooney dream fight.

July 1985: Championship Corner: Donald Curry vs. Colin Jones. Also: Napoles-Griffith, Ali, Charles, 10 meanest fighters, Spinks-Galindez dream fight.

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Every generation has a fighter like Zaragoza, who follows a pattern: Win a world title, lose the title, hear and read that you're washed up, consider retirement, fight again, win another world title, lose the title, hear and read …

Zaragoza is 35, and when the judges scored his June 1995 challenge of Hector Acero-Sanchez a draw, who thought he'd be resilient enough to overcome being denied a third reign as WBC super bantamweight champion? But a rematch was ordered, and the awkward Mexican southpaw, bleeding from more cuts than his corner could count, outpointed Acero-Sanchez at the Great Western Forum *(see fight report on next page)*.

Despite having won four world titles, Zaragoza will never be a hall of famer. No matter. He's been an honest workman throughout his career, engaging in several memorable battles and losing only to the best (Jeff Fenech, Happy Lora, Tracy Patterson).

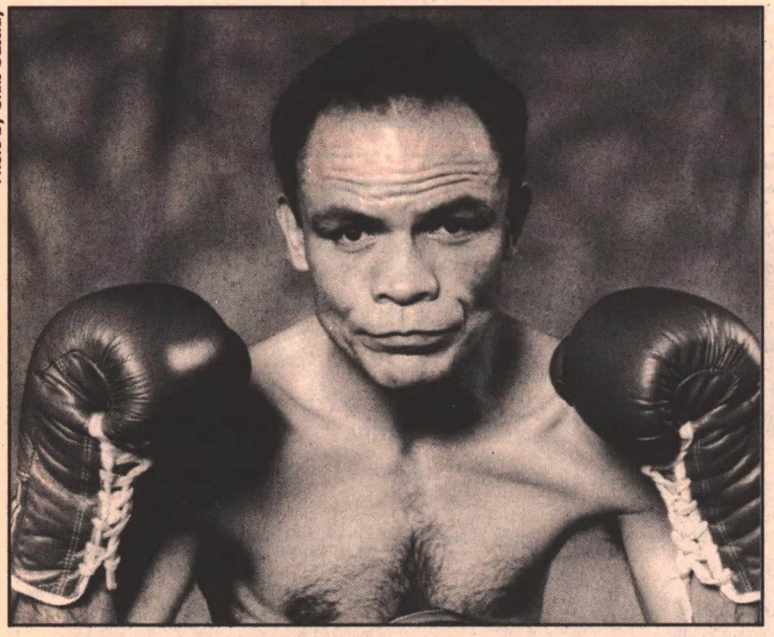


Photo by Chris Cassidy

Flashier Mexicans have come and gone while Zaragoza continues to endure. Upon learning he had regained the title by split decision, he released a wild war cry. And the next day, not a single newspaper writer suggested he was washed up.

• • • •

Daniel Zaragoza

Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Hector Acero-Sanchez

Inglewood, California: Battle-scarred veteran Zaragoza became the first four-time world champion from Mexico, regaining the WBC super bantamweight title by split decision over Acero-Sanchez before a crowd of 4,170 at the Great Western Forum.

It was Acero-Sanchez' third defense, and the 35-year-old Zaragoza's 17th world title fight, all for WBC titles. This was a WBC-ordered rematch; in June, Acero-Sanchez and Zaragoza had struggled to a controversial draw. In that bout, most ringsiders thought Zaragoza had been a clear winner.

Although it was Acero-Sanchez, 122, Bronx, New York, via the Dominican Republic, who started stronger, Zaragoza, 122, Mexico City, set the pace and seemed to have the greater desire through the championship rounds.

Zaragoza, a southpaw, was cut over the right eye in round two, in the middle of the hairline in the fourth (U.S. referee Vince Delgado penalized the champion for butting), and on the right side of his forehead in the 10th. The blood never seemed to worry the challenger, who bleeds in most of his fights. If anything, it inspired him to greater efforts. Moreover, cornerman Nacho Beristain was highly effective stemming the flow of blood between rounds.

Acero-Sanchez, 32-3-3 (20), appeared to throw more punches, but Zaragoza, 51-7-3 (25), landed the heavier shots. Boxing from an exaggerated wide stance, Acero-Sanchez lacked power. He was characteristically cautious throughout, and Zaragoza relished the role of aggressor. By round seven, Zaragoza was crowding the champion, getting under his jab and whacking the body. In the closing rounds, Zaragoza began to zero in with lefts to Acero-Sanchez' head. The 28-year-old Dominican rallied to take the last round, but he was too far behind on the cards to catch up.

Tomatsu Tomihara and Terry Smith scored for Zaragoza by 115-112 and 116-112, respectively, while Dick Young had Acero-Sanchez in front by 114-113. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING had Zaragoza ahead, 115-111. Many of the rounds were close, and the judges were unanimous on only one stanza.

Zaragoza said afterward that he'd engage in one more fight and then retire. "I feel that although I love boxing," he said through an interpreter, "it would be irresponsible at my age for me to fight much longer."

Zaragoza had previously reigned as WBC bantamweight champion and WBC super bantamweight champion (twice).

(11-6-95)

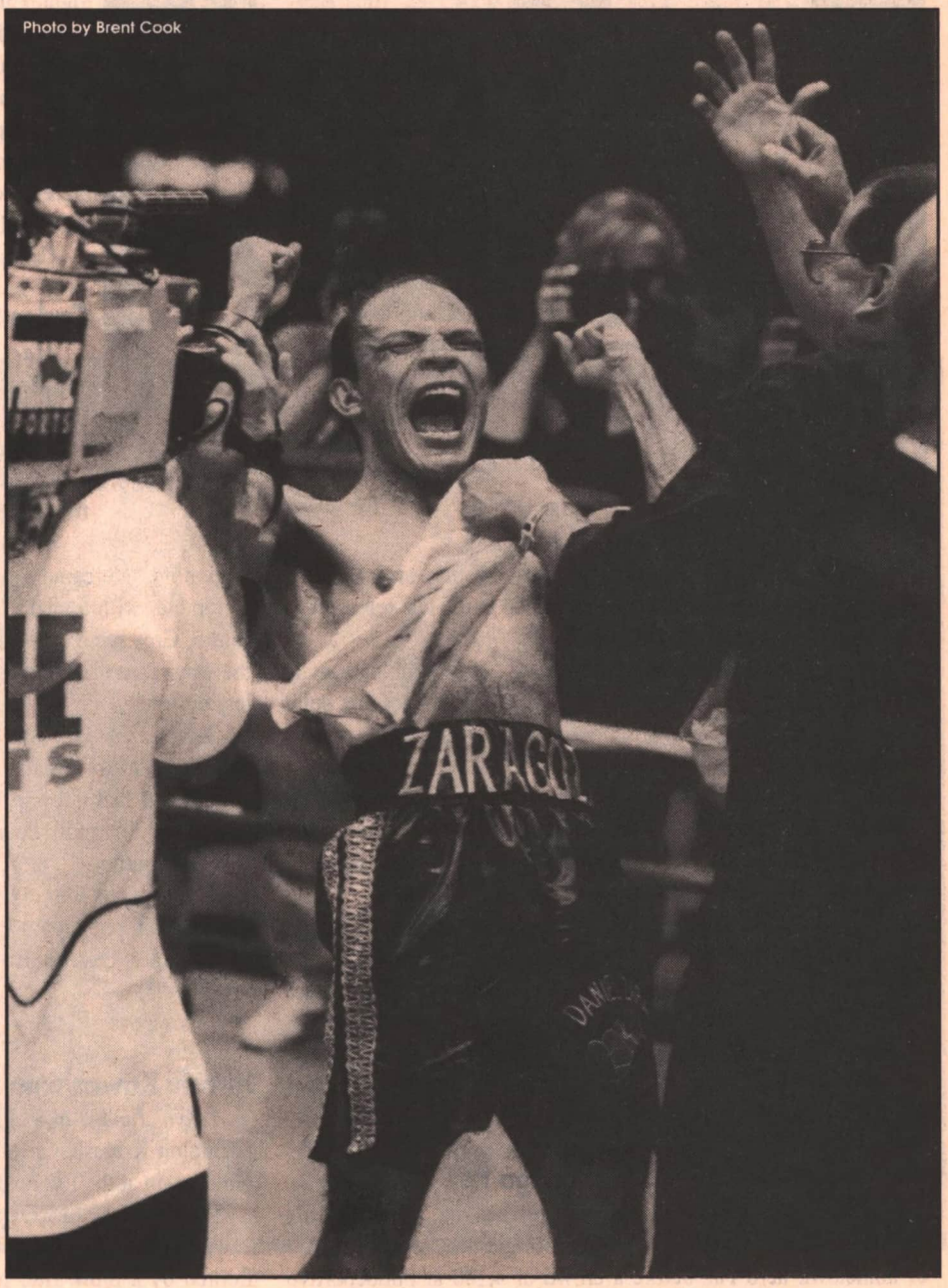
David Wood

Philip Holiday W 12 Rocky Martinez

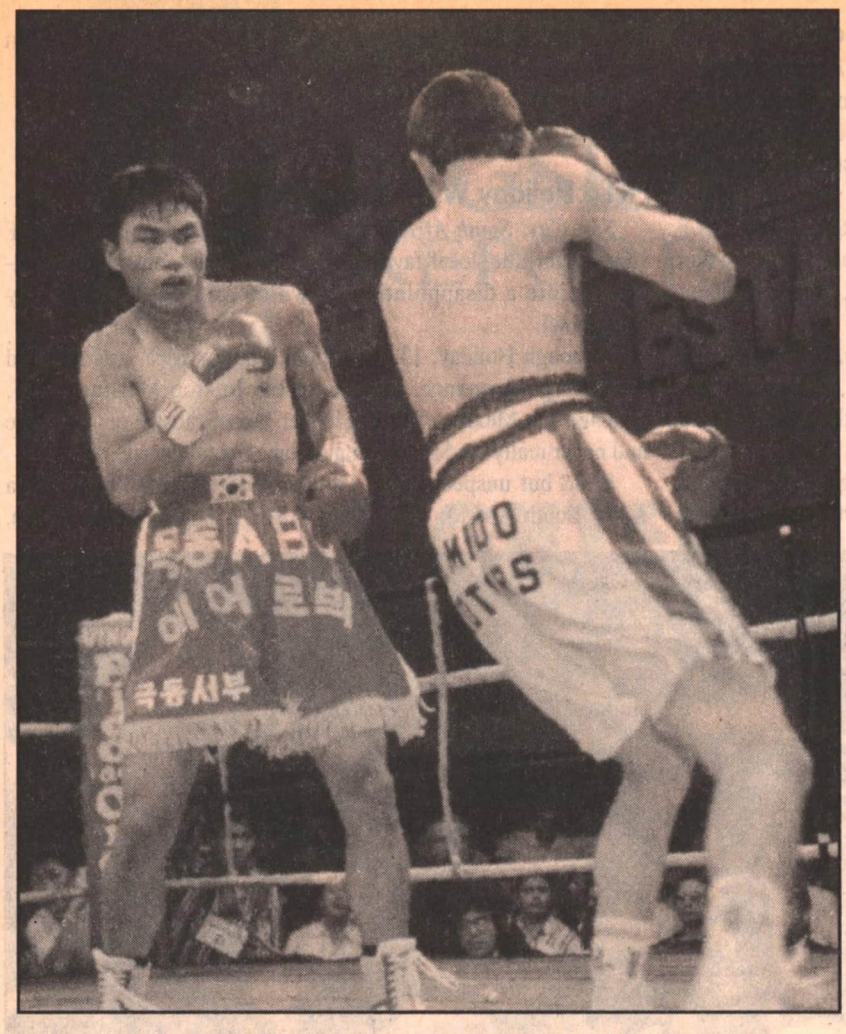
Sun City, South Africa: Making his first defense of the IBF lightweight title, local favorite Holiday scored a unanimous decision before a disappointing crowd of 2,500 at the Sun City Superbowl.

Although Holiday, 133½, Benoni, South Africa, was satisfied with his performance, he was unable to stop Martinez, 135, Chicago via Mexico. The challenger boxed mostly out of range and never really made an attempt to take the title away.

Solid but unspectacular, Holiday was rewarded by Lulama Mtya (South Africa), who scored 118-111, Eugene Grant (USA),



Does this fighter look ready for retirement?



Choi pounded Paz (no, not that *Paz) all fight long*

117-111, and John Stewart (USA), 120-108. Stewart's score, a shutout, was a fair reflection of a one-sided bout. The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

Martinez started well and even threw a few combinations in the first two rounds that caught the champion. But from that point on, his limitations were exposed as Holiday stalked, varying his attack to the head and body.

Martinez, 19-1 (10), shared the seventh round on THE RING's card, but only because of Holiday's drop in activity. Martinez, 28, suffered a cut on his right brow in the sixth, but managed to bloody Holiday's nose after that.

The 25-year-old Holiday, 26-0 (14), did what he had to do, but one must question the quality of the challenger, who hadn't fought any opponents of note. What had Martinez done to qualify for a shot at the world title?

Promoter: Rodney Berman's Golden Gloves Promotions
(11-4-95)
Ron Jackson

Yong Soo Choi KO 10 Victor Hugo Paz

Salta, Argentina: Issuing a tremendous beating, South Korea's Choi won the vacant WBA junior lightweight title, scoring a TKO of hometown hero Paz before a crowd of 4,100 at Polideportivo Salta Stadium. Paz' corner surrendered by tossing a towel into the ring at the 47-second mark of the 10th round.

Paz had been rated first and Choi second. The title had previously been held by Genaro Hernandez, who vacated to fight Oscar De La Hoya.

After nine rounds, Choi led on all three cards. Angel Custodio Tovar had it an incredible 85-84, Washington Gonzalez (Chile) 87-83, and Hank Meijers (Holland) 89-80. Referee Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) penalized Choi in the fifth and eighth rounds for low blows and rabbit-punching, respectively.

The 23-year-old Choi, 130, applied pressure from the start, and Paz, 129¼, was never in the fight. Choi, 18-2 (12), scored three knockdowns, one in the fifth and two in the ninth, though Aguilera chose to issue only one count (in the ninth). Paz, 26, dropped to 56-2-1 (24).

Paz spent 48 hours in the hospital as a precautionary measure.

Promoter: Osvaldo Rivera
(10-21-95)
Carlos Irusta

Carlos Salazar W 12 Harold Grey

Mar Del Plata, Argentina: Trying for a world title for a fourth time, southpaw Salazar captured the IBF junior bantamweight title by split decision before an estimated crowd of 1,000 at Superdomo Stadium. It was Grey's fourth defense.

The 31-year-old Salazar, 114, Capital Federal, Argentina, overcame a pair of cuts to floor Grey, 115, Bolivar, Colombia, with a sharp left-right combination to the chin in the fourth. Grey recovered well and put forth a gutty effort the rest of the way, especially in a spirited 11th round, but he was nonetheless outfought.

Stuart Winston (USA) and Jorge Molina (Argentina) scored for Salazar by 116-111 and 117-111, respectively. Raimundo Alcazar (Colombia) had Grey in front by an incredible 117-112. Referee Waldemar Schmidt (Puerto Rico) penalized Salazar in the 10th round for butting.

Salazar, the first Argentine IBF champion, is 40-6-1 (16). Grey, 23, dropped to 20-1 (15).

Promoter: Osvaldo Rivera
(10-7-95)
Carlos Irusta

Hiroshi Kawashima KO 3 Boy Aruan

Tokyo, Japan: In a clash of southpaws, WBC super flyweight champion Kawashima retained the title for the fourth time, stopping Aruan at the Ryogoku Sumo Arena.

Kawashima, 115, Japan, swarmed over the slower Aruan, 114½, Indonesia. After surviving a dangerous moment—he was floored by a blow after referee Carlos Padilla (USA) had called

break—the champion twice dropped Aruan with a barrage of punches in the third. After the second knockdown, Padilla halted the bout at the 1:57 mark.

The 25-year-old Kawashima, 18-2 (13), will next face the mandatory challenger, California's Cecilio Espino, who retained his ranking despite losing his last bout to Polo Saucedo. Aruan, the former OPBF 115-pound champion, dropped to 26-4-1 (6).

The judges were Jose Medina (Mexico), Larry Hazzard Jr. (USA), and Rudy Jordan (USA).

(11-8-95)

Joe Koizumi

Saman Sorjaturong KO 4 Yuichi Hosono

Ratchaburi, Thailand: Making his first defense following his unlikely title-winning kayo victory over Chiquita Gonzalez, WBC-IBF junior flyweight king Sorjaturong crushed the overmatched Hosono at Ratchaburi Main Stadium. The fight was held in conjunction with the 32nd annual WBC convention.

The 24-year-old Sorjaturong, 106¾, Thailand, was far too good for Hosono, 107¼, who was making his third bid for a world title. The champion chose to open up in the fourth, and when a barrage dropped Hosono, the 26-year-old challenger was counted out by referee Tony Perez (USA) at the 1:20 mark.

The judges were Sid Rubinstein (USA), David Chung (South Korea), and Tom Kaczmarek (USA).

Sorjaturong is 26-2-1 (22), and Hosono 22-4-1 (12).

While a Sorjaturong-Gonzalez rematch is eagerly anticipated, the Thai is required to next defend against mandatory challenger and former champion Melchor Cob Castro of Mexico.

(11-12-95)

Joe Koizumi

Orzubek Nazarov W 12 Dindo Canoy

Iwaki, Japan: Unbeaten lefty Nazarov proved too fast and strong for Canoy, retaining the WBA lightweight title for the fourth time by one-sided unanimous decision at Iwaki Municipal Gymnasium.

The 29-year-old Nazarov, 134½, Tokyo, Japan, utilized combination-punching to outclass Canoy, 133¾, Philippines. A series of lefts and rights froze the challenger in the fourth, but Nazarov, a southpaw, had to show caution because of Canoy's reckless use of his head. In the sixth, referee Franco Priami (Italy) penalized the Filipino for butting.

Canoy, 29-10-1 (18), kept attacking head-first, so Nazarov, 22-0 (16), relied on a hit-and-run strategy. It became a boring fight, with Nazarov uncharacteristically cautious and Canoy, 25, missing with most of his punches.

The scores were 120-107, 120-113, and 119-110. As we went to press, the names of the judges were unavailable.

The fight wasn't televised in Japan because it was thought to be nothing more than a workout for the champion.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(11-14-95)

Joe Koizumi ■

Helping Salazar celebrate was countryman Juan Coggi (far left)

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

The career of former featherweight champion Calvin Grove seemingly came to an inglorious end when he suffered a stoppage loss to unheralded Angel Manfredy in Atlantic City. "Silky Smooth" was halted in round seven.

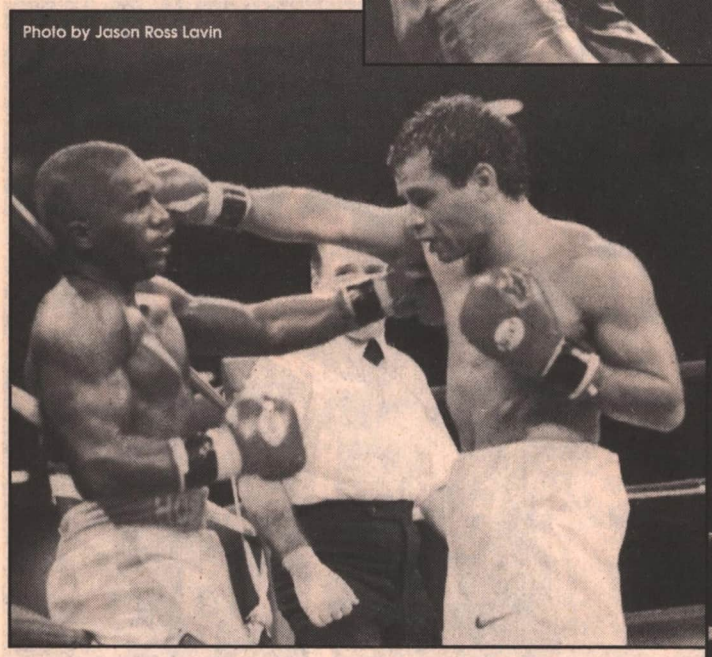


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

In a shocker, former junior lightweight champion Ed Hopson was kayoed by clubfighter Santos Lopez on the Whitaker-Rodriguez undercard in Atlantic City. Hopson was leading on points when he was stopped in the 10th and final round.

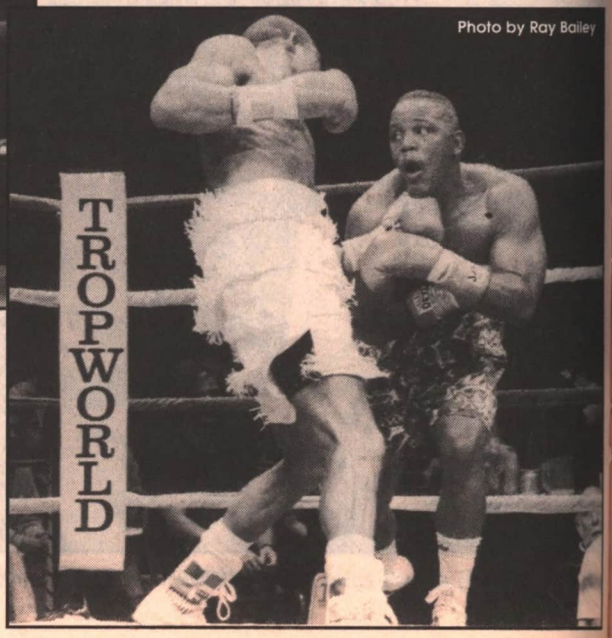
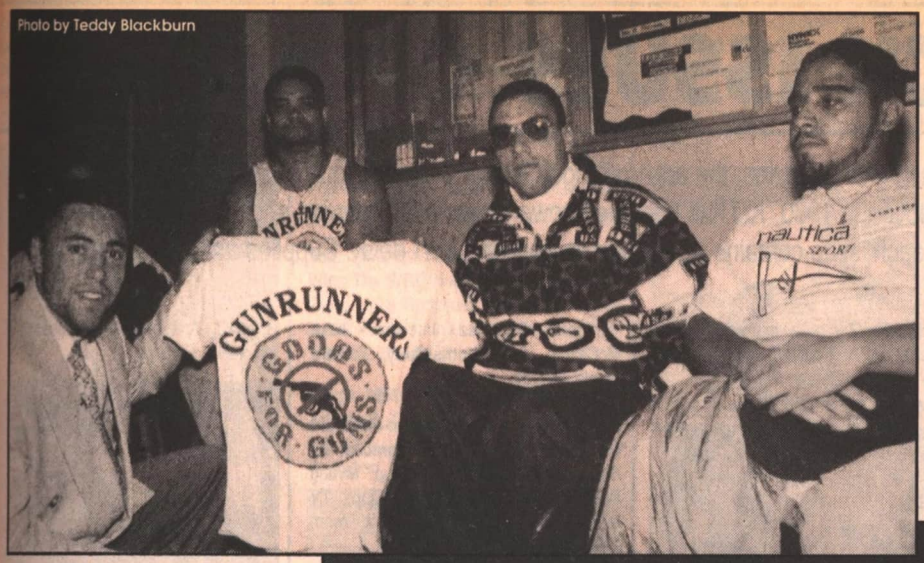


Photo by Ray Bailey

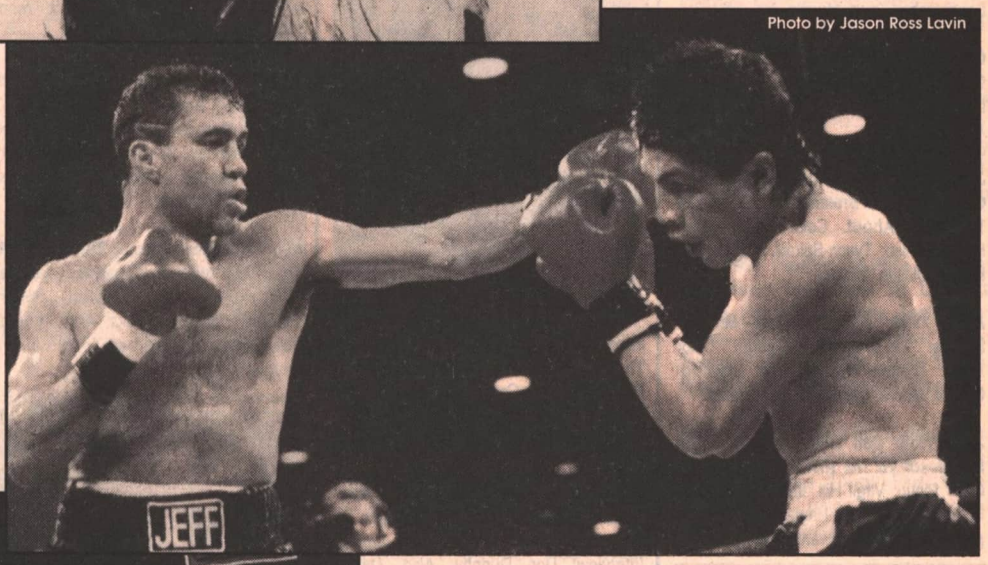
*We've seen eye-opening punches, but this was a **mouth**-opening punch. The pitcher was light heavyweight contender Merqui Sosa, and the catcher Benito Fernandez. Nice trunks, Merqui.*

Photo by Teddy Blackburn



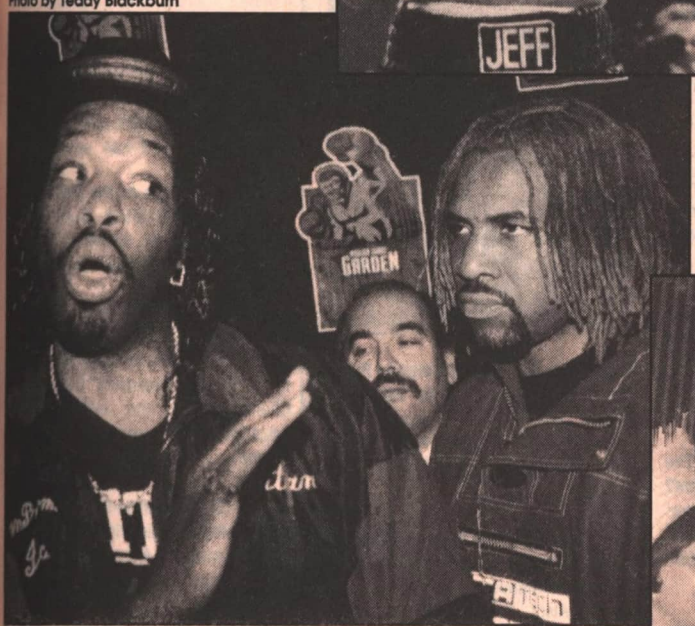
On a recent trip to New York City, Oscar De La Hoya used his celebrity status in a most positive way, working with the Goods For Guns program.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin



Look who's back! Triple-crown titlist Jeff Fenech is after that fourth world title. In his first fight in more than two years, the Australian junior lightweight crushed Tito Tovar in eight rounds. The bout was on the Whitaker-Trinidad undercard.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn



Mitch Green, the world's most inactive heavyweight, looks like he wants no part of unbeaten Shannon Briggs. The New Yorkers were supposed to square off on the De La Hoya-Leija undercard at Madison Square Garden, but—what a surprise—Green disappeared a couple of weeks beforehand.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Only for Fidel Castro would Joe Louis wear such a ridiculous-looking hat. A huge boxing fan, Castro was thrilled by "The Brown Bomber's" appearance at a 1960 New Year's party at the Havana Hilton in Cuba.

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO* magazine, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

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Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Tyson, Curry, Paul, Pryor-Arguello.

June 1987: New WBA Welterweight Champion Mark Breland: He's Got A Lot To Smile About. Color Pinup: Greg Haugen. Also: Tyson-Spinks, Sugar Ray-Hagler, Olajide, Monzon.

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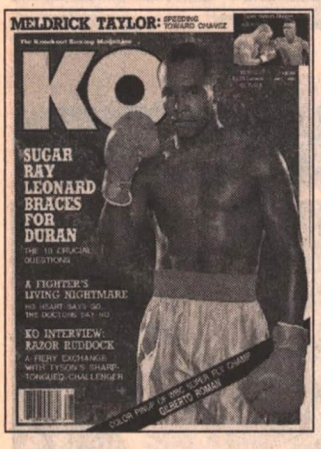
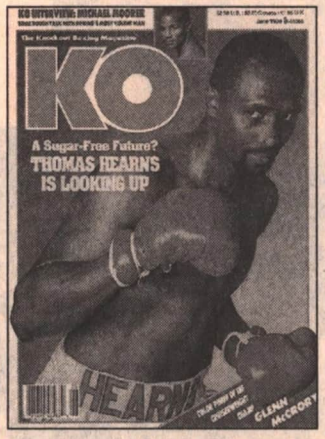


Jan. 1990: Sugar Ray Leonard Braces For Duran: 10 Crucial Questions. Color Pinup: Gilberto Roman. Interview: Razor Ruddock. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Harold Knight, Zaragoza, McKinney, Starling.

March 1990: Evander Holyfield Passes A Surprise Test ... But Can He Give Tyson A Fight? Color Pinup: Antonio Esparragoza. Interview: Seth Abraham. Also: Cooney-Foreman, colorful characters.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.



June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

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Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

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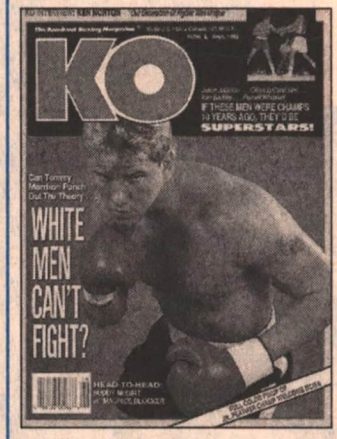
Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Haugen.

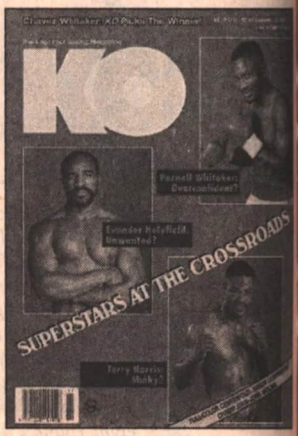


Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: McGirt, Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Aug. 1993: Experts Pick The Winner Of Chavez-Whitaker. Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Foreman-Morrison Preview, Holyfield, Artemiev, Frazier, best of KO Interviews, Carbajal.



Nov. 1993: Superstars At The Crossroads: Pernell Whitaker, Evander Holyfield, Terry Norris. Color Pinup: John-John Molina. Interview: Al Certo. Also: Padilla, Whitaker-Chavez, Norris-Waters, Holyfield-Stewart, Morrison-Foreman.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, Foreman, Yori Boy, Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

Jan. 1994: Outrage At The Alamodome: "Sweet Pea" Shafted! Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Toney, book of lists, Barrera.

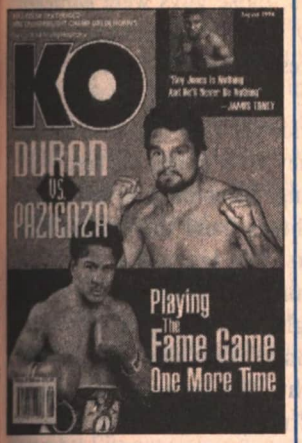
Feb. 1994: Lennox Lewis Defends Against Frank Bruno—And The Winner Is ... Tommy Morrison. Color Pinup: Charles Murray. Also: Jeremy Williams, fights we'd like to see, People's Choice Tourney.

March 1994: Holyfield-Bowe II: Why It Was Different This Time. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Also: Morrison-Bentt, Hearns, King, Carbajal, De La Hoya.

May 1994: Oscar De La Hoya—He Wants It All And He Wants It Now. Color Pinup: Anaclet Wamba. Interview: Simon Brown. Also: Chavez, Tom Johnson, Borboa.

June 1994: Frankie Randall Makes It Official! J.C. Chavez Is A Beaten Man. Color Pinup: Jose Luis Bueno. Also: Norris brothers, Trinidad, Holyfield-Moorer preview, heroes to the stars.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.



Aug. 1994: Duran vs. Pazienza. Playing The Fame Game One More Time. Color Pinup: Orlin Norris. Also: Hide-Bentt, Toney-Jones, Corrie Sanders, pound-for-pound history.

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Oct. 1994: Randall Scandal: How Chavez Stole Back The Title. Color Pinup: Kevin Kelley. Also: Leija, Romero & Tapia, who's who among heavyweights, Leonard Chronicles (part I).

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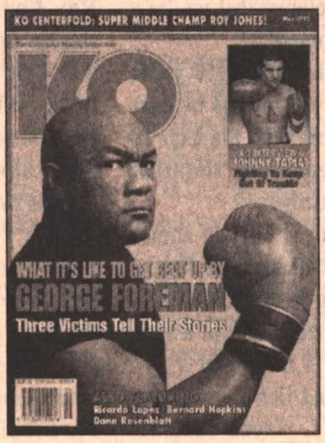

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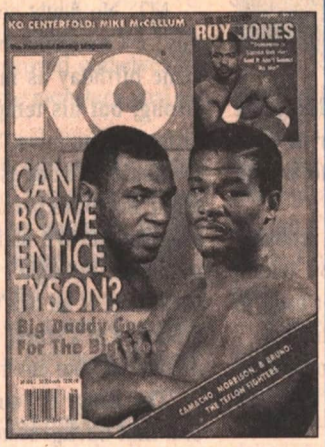
July 1995: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Rafael Ruelas: This Lightweight Superfight Packs A Heavyweight Punch. Color Pinup: Gabe Ruelas. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Plus: De La Hoya-Molina, James Toney, heavyweight champs' first defense.



Aug. 1995: Riddick Bowe: Can He Entice Tyson? Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Camacho, Morrison, and Bruno, Hall of Fame.

Sept. 1995: Tyson's Heavyweight Headaches (Special 88-Page Edition). Color Pinup: Orzubek Nazarov. Interview: Nigel Benn. Plus: Terry Norris, McCall-Holmes, Seldon-Tucker, "Mucho Machismo."

Oct. 1995: Tyson's Managers Horne & Holloway: A No-Holds-Barred Interview. Color Pinup: Vincent Pettway. Plus: James Hughes, Oscar De La Hoya, Elvis Parker, Bernard Hopkins.

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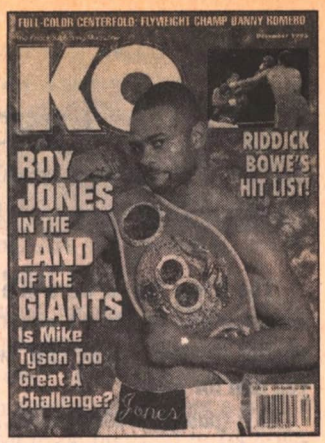

Dec. 1995: Roy Jones In The Land Of The Giants: Is Mike Tyson Too Great A Challenge? Color Pinup: Danny Romero. Interview: Can We—Should We—Stop The Brutality? Plus: Alexandr Zolkin, Riddick Bowe.

Winter 1995: Buster Mathis Jr.: "Tyson's An Ordinary Fighter." Color Pinup: Alejandro Gonzalez. Interview: Danny Romero. Plus: Tyson-McNeeley, Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Lonnie Bradley, Foreman trivia.

Jan. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): Countdown To Chavez: De La Hoya Heads For The Ultimate Test. Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Bruce Seldon. Plus: Frank Bruno, Lamar Murphy, Special Section: The Dynamite Dozen.

Feb. 1996: The Time Is Right; Bring It On, Tyson! Color Pinup: Bruce Seldon. Interview: James Toney. Plus: Bowe-Holyfield III, Lennox Lewis, Thomas Hearns, Quarry family.

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 21)

The Ring: If you were in a desperate situation and you had a quarter in your pocket for one phone call, who would you dial for help?

MT: *(pauses)* I don't know ... probably Rory (co-manager and boyhood friend Rory Holloway). I mean I'm not used to depending ... It depends on the situation.

The Ring: Let's move back to boxing. What exactly is it about boxing that you love? Try to be specific.

MT: I just think it's the ego rush. Really, I don't know. I look at boxing differently than I did back then. Back then, I looked at it—it was fun. Now it relieves a lot. It's more important to me than it was back then. It came so *easy*. Now I appreciate it. Everything's more of a burden now, more responsibilities. I don't know if I should use that word burden. Life has become a burden to me now.

The Ring: You don't sound happy ...

MT: I'm just not a happy type of guy.

The Ring: Is boxing just a job now?

MT: I never looked at it as a job.

The Ring: Historians point to the second Max Schmeling fight to illustrate the greatness of Joe Louis. They say Muhammad Ali was never better than when he fought Cleveland Williams. What fight should we be pointing at regarding Mike Tyson's career?

MT: I felt pretty damn good when I beat Alex Stewart (in December 1990). I think that was the best.

The Ring: How about the Michael Spinks fight?

MT: People thought that was gonna be a good fight. I knew that was never gonna be a fight, it was gonna be a one- two-round fight. There was nothing that he had, there was nothing he could have done to me.

The Ring: One of the things that made you a great fighter was the rage inside of you. Is the rage still there?

MT: I believe it just has to do with your temperament. Cus [D'Amato] knew I'd be successful because I had the proper temperament. A lot of guys said, "He's too short, he's too small." But I had the right temperament for it.

The Ring: Was that temperament shaped by how you grew up?

MT: No doubt about it. There was this guy, a Caucasian brother, who had the same birthday as me. He was powerful, strong, but his temperament was totally different than mine, being brought up with the house on Long Island. Totally different from my background. Cus made that assessment. We had the same emotional problems; we didn't control our emotions back then. It all has to do with your background. I'm a strong believer that you're a product of your environment.

The Ring: If you live to be 150 years old, that background will always be part of you. But how do you keep the rage in the ring when your economic situation has changed so drastically?

MT: But listen, can I tell you something? You have to understand, the fact is, maybe like I said, things happen for a reason. Maybe I stay pissed off or in a rage because I've kept in a bunch of s___. Because I'm famous and rich ... you stay pissed off because of s___ you endured. *(pauses)* I don't feel the successes everyone else feels about me. I don't feel that successful. I don't feel that way. Maybe it's a little war I have within myself.

The Ring: How important to your success in the ring is that rage?

MT: Rage is great, but experience is better. Experience is so much better. I'm more experienced now.

The Ring: Cus always talked about fear, how it's good to be nervous, and how it's critical to use that fear and nervousness in a positive way ...

MT: I find myself more nervous now than in the beginning of my career or when I was champion. Maybe it's a slight insecurity. Even in training, I find myself taking that last breath *(breathes deeply)*. I don't know if it's good or not. I know what to do, but you have those doubts. I guess that's what pisses you off—you have those doubts about yourself even though you've been successful for so many years.

The Ring: Was there a fight you remember being more nervous for than any other? Like the first time you fought for the title ...

MT: I knew I was gonna beat those guys. Bonecrusher [Smith] got me a little nervous. He hit hard, he was strong. But like I said, he didn't have the temperament. You have to be willing to sacrifice. In the olden days, those guys were *hardened men*. They went down swinging, taking their chances to win. Very few fighters you saw in the olden days fought like they were intimidated. They may have felt that way, but they never fought like that.

The Ring: Sometimes we learn more about fighters from their losses than their wins. We learned a lot about Muhammad Ali from the first Joe Frazier fight, and the same with Sugar Ray Leonard from the first Roberto Duran fight. The Buster Douglas fight was the first that didn't go in your favor. What would have happened had you been 100 percent mentally and physically? Would Douglas have been as easy as some of the others?

MT: Yeah. My agenda ... I was just ... I don't know what happened. You can't take away that I fought a bad fight and he fought a good fight. It's just something that happens. It never haunts me. It haunts other people more so than it haunts me. I'm a realist, I know these things happen.

I realized people you thought were acquainted with you for good reasons were probably joyful that I lost that fight. I didn't care. I could never understand how anybody could be envious of me, jealous of me. People say, "Look how much money you have." But I've been through a bunch of dysfunctional evaluations. I just can't imagine anybody being jealous of my life. If they had to go through what I went through, they'd probably kill themselves.

I have a friend I knew for years, I grew up with, and he's been shot at, he shot people, killed people, and all of a sudden one day he just went crazy. You know what I mean? One day I was talking on the phone with one of our friends from the neighborhood and I heard (the aforementioned friend) was in the crazy house in Bellevue (a hospital in New York City). I said, "Now listen, you have to understand, people don't understand why you're not crazy and I'm not crazy because of what we've been through." I said, "Maybe one day he came to realize .. and snap!"

One day it all came to play, what really happened in my life, in retrospect, and I was thinking, *Oh, I'm sick.* I was laying on my bed sick, I almost died. My hair started

turning gray and falling out because I was thinking of these things. I don't know. I could've snapped then. I could've snapped then. But instead, I just got out and just went and ran all day. I just went and ran. I just went and ran in place in my room. Every time I'd finish running in place I'd stop. I'd be sweating. I'd get in the shower, and then, *boom!* It just hits you again.

The Ring: There was a German philosopher Nietzsche ...

MT: Oh, yeah ...

The Ring: ... And he said that anything that doesn't destroy us makes us stronger. If that's the case, you must feel very strong.

MT: I don't know if I'm strong. It's just what I've experienced in my life, and I know I can handle it. Nothing, nothing discourages me. Nietzsche also said, "When we're in pursuit of fighting monsters, during that fight, we must make sure we don't become monsters." And I thought that was pretty cool. When we're in struggle in business or against our competitors, we're fighting any enemy that has no scruples or rules. And we're brought up with rules and scruples. And during that ordeal, when the fighting's over and we're victorious, we may have enhanced his scruples, morals, and morality, but we've become monsters. In all actuality, we have not won. We have destroyed ourselves in gaining some crap, some monetary goal or something.

The Ring: When you made your return last August and you were waiting on the runway for your entrance to the ring at the MGM Grand, was it like doing it for the first time?

MT: No. In my mind, it was, *I've been through this 100 times. I've been through this before.*

The Ring: How disappointed were you that Peter McNeeley didn't give you much of a fight?

MT: I wasn't disappointed, because I wasn't expecting much of a fight.

The Ring: You're different from a lot of fighters in that you really do want to test yourself against the best. Did it bother you that the McNeeley fight was a circus, that they were giving you an opponent you knew you were going to knock out in 30 seconds?

MT: I hadn't fought for four years. You can't just take me and throw me in with the champion. I mean, you have to be realistic.

The Ring: Are you anxious to get in there with today's best?

MT: I'm not anxious, because I know being anxious sometimes causes mistakes. I'm not a fool. That's one thing. Even though I'm egotistical, I'm not a fool. I know I have to be prepared to fight the best.

The Ring: When Riddick Bowe beat Evander Holyfield, their fight was billed as a bout to crown the world's best heavyweight. From an ego standpoint, does it bother you that Bowe is now considered the best heavyweight in boxing?

MT: No, it doesn't, because I know when I'm *right*, there's no one can stand a chance, even at this stage of my life.

The Ring: How familiar are you with Bowe and Lennox Lewis?

MT: I boxed with Lennox Lewis when

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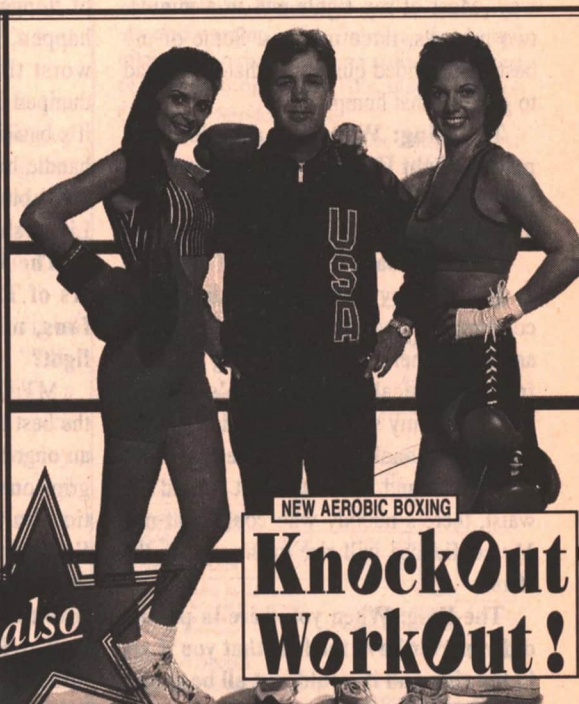

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I was a kid. I haven't boxed with Bowe or anything. I've seen them fight. I've watched them. They're good fighters.

The Ring: How do you respond when you hear that Bowe has the right size and style to beat Mike Tyson?

MT: I never thought that, because most of the guys I beat are big guys like that. I wouldn't agree with that at all.

The Ring: Whenever the time comes and you do fight whoever is considered the best, will it excite you as much as it did the first time?

MT: I believe so. I believe so. But you have to understand, every fight, every little fight is like a big event. Peter McNeeley's become a superstar, and there are guys who have been champions, all-pros in football, they don't have commercials. And Peter McNeeley has a commercial.

The Ring: Everyone had an opinion after the McNeeley fight. "Mike Tyson looked like s___." "Mike Tyson looked great." I didn't have an opinion because I didn't think there was anything to learn. Do you agree?

MT: The press should be more sophisticated because most of my fights end that way. Most of my fights end in a minute, two minutes, three minutes. Some of my best fights ended quick like that. I just had to get over that hump.

The Ring: When the decision was made to fight Frank Bruno in March for the WBC title, was it made by you, by Team Tyson, or by Don King?

MT: They basically make the decisions to do what they want. But if I didn't feel comfortable, I would never fight the guy or anything. There's nothing wrong with me from a physical apsect. There's nothing wrong with my style. I just need to get my confidence back. After I have that fight with Bruno and I have the belt around my waist, there's nobody who could beat me. My confidence will rise to the sky, to the stars.

The Ring: When you were in prison, did you ever have the fear that you'd get in the ring and it would just all be gone?

MT: I never thought that. I never thought negative like that. But when I started sparring, it was disastrous. Yeah, man, God ... It was horrible. *(Tyson sticks his chin up and flails away with both hands.)* It lasted a couple of weeks. It was pathetic. You know, I pick up things quick when I'm interested.

The Ring: The decision to return to Don King: Was it 100 percent yours?

MT: Yeah. I never had no other promoter. Where else was I gonna go? Me and Don was cool, I had no problems with Don. Where was I gonna go, Dan Duva? Bob Arum? I don't even know those people. Regardless of what the deal would be, I didn't feel comfortable with them, I didn't know them.

The Ring: What's your response to the allegation that King has stolen from you?

MT: It's never been proven. We're talking about jealousy and envy again. Every time something happens, they always run something [about King] like anti-Semetic or racist or whatever the situation may be.

The Ring: Recent high-profile trials suggest people can get away with almost anything. You went to prison for a rape case that legal experts said didn't seem that strong. Are you bitter about that, and if so, do you think you'll be bitter for the rest of your life?

MT: I doubt it. I just *expect* the worst of things to happen now. If good things happen, I enjoy them. But I expect the worst things to happen. I expect to be dumped on all my life. That's just the way it's basically been. That's probably why I handle it so well, because I anticipate it. I don't bitch and complain about anything. Life is short.

The Ring: Any message for the readers of THE RING, the hard-core boxing fans, most of whom love to see you fight?

MT: I'm just basically striving to do the best that I can. It's a difficult struggle, an ongoing process, just gradually getting grips on yourself. I'm too cool to be frantic. I'm a thinker, I'm always thinking. I'm happy these fans think enough of me to buy the magazine when I'm on the cover.

The Ring: Is there any doubt in your mind that Mike Tyson will again be heavyweight champion of the world?

MT: Praise be to God I get by this fight (vs. Mathis) and I get my hands on Bruno. I'm gonna be champ. I'm the kind of guy, I just have to get to the threshold. Sometimes it's just difficult getting to the threshold. Once I'm there and I'm in the dressing room the night of the fight, I know I can't be denied. ■

Peter McNeeley

(Continued from page 23)

American celebrity firmament.

McNeeley is to Tyson as Kato Kaelin is to O.J.—a nobody who suddenly becomes a somebody by happening to cross paths with a larger-than-life icon. In other words, by being in the right place at the right time. Like Kato, McNeeley has that certain *je ne sais quoi* that just might extend his allotted 15 minutes of fame to a half-hour or more.

And don't think McNeeley doesn't know it. Contrary to appearing to be an earnest but laughable New England palooka hurtling through time and space, McNeeley is not only no dummy, but acutely aware of who he is and how strangely blessed is his quixotic rock 'n' roll ride.

He's playing "Hurricane" Peter McNeeley for all it's worth.

Take the commercial he made for Pizza Hut after the Tyson fight. Acting the part of a tomato-can heavyweight with a dinosaur's brain, while his manager, Vinny Vecchione, does all the talking, McNeeley knocks himself out with a slice of cheese-in-the-crust pizza. The commercial ends through the blurry eyes of the fighter, with a concerned Vecchione looking down and saying, "Hey, McNeeley, how many slices am I holding?"

The commercial makes McNeeley look like an idiot. He also made a lot of money, reportedly $100,000.

McNeeley feels bad about the way the commercial portrays him—but not that bad. He doesn't believe he owes anyone an apology.

"Number one, I hate to be like that," he said, "but I was paid well. It was a lighthearted promotion. It made people laugh, and maybe it will get my face out there. Maybe I'll get another commercial.

"You know how many people say life's short? It's not. It's long. I had fun. I went Hollywood for two weeks. What right does a kid from Medfield [Massachusetts] have going to Hollywood? I'm having fun."

And again, the money was good.

People believe that just because McNeeley climbed into the ring with a comebacking Tyson in one of the highest-grossing pay-per-view fights of all-time, he's set for life. Ask him about it and McNeeley leans over like he's letting you in on a dirty little secret: His announced share of the fight was $880,000. The government took $340,000, and that was before his team got paid.

"My take was $170,000 at the end," he said. "Those commercials bounced me back up to where I should have been."

(One place McNeeley doesn't want to be is in court. As we went to press, he had been arrested in Boston and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon—a beer bottle—after an incident in a night club.)

McNeeley is close to getting a degree in political science at Bridgewater State College, but people who know him only from his Tyson hype bluster, the 89-second blitzkrieg, and the buffoonery in the pizza commercial, think he's a dope. He cared at first, but being the pragmatist that he is, he's turning the mockery in his favor.

Vecchione, a lunchpail philosopher who sold Don King Productions on a Tyson-McNeeley fight, knows it's important to make the most of the attention, no matter what shape or form it comes in. Nobody likes to be laughed at, but McNeeley and Vecchione don't let it hurt them. It's a sort of a twist on an old saying: It's better to be hated than ignored.

"You get to the stage of your life, if you can't laugh at yourself, come on, get out of this business," Vecchione said.

McNeeley tells the story of a radio disc jockey who invited him on as a guest, and upon going on the air said, "Who could be a bigger bum than Peter McNeeley?" Instead of getting emotional, defensive, or hurt, or even knocking the guy's block off, McNeeley took a deep breath and played along as his usual, ingratiating self. The DJ was so taken, he's had McNeeley back on his show several times since.

"Everything in life has its ups and downs," McNeeley said. "A lot of positive and a lot of negative feedback. But the positive always outweighs the negative."

On October 27, McNeeley returned to the ring for the first time since the Tyson fight. In Boston, he should have received a local hero's welcome. Instead, the crowd booed when he climbed into the ring, and booed when he scored a second-round knockout of Michael Sam, who had had one fight in 10 years, a knockout loss. Some fans even pelted him with pizza crust.

Was he surprised? "Not really," he said. "The fight, the commercials, jealousy—it was a lot of things."

Vecchione's attitude has also helped McNeeley take it in stride.

"A radio station called me the next day and said, 'Vinny, how did you feel about that happening?' I said, 'I was hurt.' He said, 'You were?' I said, 'Yeah, they were throwing Domino's pizza at me instead of Pizza Hut.' So I don't care."

"I'm a realist," McNeeley said. "You can't run away from yourself. I'm happy with it. Whoever thought I'd be back in the ring in October? I've got four more strong years in the fight game, and by then, I hope people will have a better outlook of me. Hey, I've got a 'W' under my belt and Tyson's got a sore thumb. My phone's ringing."

His fight schedule is full, which Vecchione thinks is good.

"Inactivity is bad for Peter McNeeley," he said. "He's a workaholic, and it's best to stay at work."

There are a few easy fights in the works, but Vecchione is also cooking up an intriguing fight, in a pro wrestling sort of way, with that rotund boxing oddity known as Butterbean. He's also discussing a much more dangerous encounter with unbeaten prospect Shannon Briggs.

"I think it's a better idea to fight Butterbean," Vecchione said. "The Butterbean-McNeeley fight will draw a good audience. People are going to pick Butterbean to knock out McNeeley because McNeeley let them down, and people are going to pick McNeeley because they don't think Butterbean belongs in boxing.

"I hope he beats Butterbean, and then more good things will happen to us."

"Who's Butterbean?" Don King matchmaker Al Braverman asks derisively. "How can you put McNeeley on a pay-per-view show? They've got to have a couple of winning fights."

Braverman speaks as if the backlash against Tyson following the fight is

(Continued on page 72)

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McNeeley's fault.

"[McNeeley] tried, but Vecchione f____ up, and that was it," he said. "They were small-town."

But what do McNeeley and Vecchione care? They're happy with the way Vecchione fought his heart out against Tyson. They've accepted the consequences of Vecchione's decision to jump into the ring and stop the fight—which resulted in the lucrative pizza commercial.

While Tyson was ripped in the press for pulling out of his fight with Buster Mathis Jr., McNeeley was riding high. He loves playing the role of the kid from Medfield who had the guts to step up and go for it.

"I didn't get to the Olympics," he said. "I didn't go to big training camps. I didn't get a big organization behind me. It was me and Vinny Vecchione and 60 bucks."

"Sixty bucks?" Vecchione said. "He must be holding out on me." ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in Washington, D.C.

Whitaker & Trinidad

(Continued from page 26)

at the count of 11. The time of the kayo was the 2:45 mark.

The judges were John Stewart (USA), Bruce McTavish (Philippines), and Guillermo Ayan Higueroa (Mexico).

Trinidad has been floored a handful of times, most noticeably by Yori Boy Campas and Anthony Stephens, but even if Whitaker proves to be his master, the Puerto Rican will surely offer far more resistance than Rodriguez did. And if Whitaker tries to chip away at the taller Trinidad's body, he won't be able to crowd his foe whenever he pleases. In other words, don't expect the Whitaker who meets Trinidad to resemble the brazen and bold fighter that overwhelmed Rodriguez.

***

Against the 5'6" Barnes, Trinidad showcased his speed and power, but also his maturity. If the intangibles make Whitaker special, it's been no different with Trinidad. For a 22-year-old fighter, he's incredibly patient and poised. Those qualities helped him gun down Barnes. Against a welterweight who frustrates his opponents as thoroughly as Whitaker, they'll be invaluable.

The night before the fight, the 30-year-old Barnes, 146, Mount Vernon, New York, said, "I didn't come to Atlantic City to play cards." Maybe not, but he tried to blackjack Trinidad a split second after the opening bell, launching a leaping hook at the champion's head. Trinidad, 147, Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, sidestepped the blow, then kept moving. Armed with six-inch reach and four-inch height advantages, he didn't need a Professor of Pugilism to formulate his fight plan. Nonetheless, he displayed the discipline to keep outside and eschew the toe-to-toe trades Barnes was hoping for.

By the second round, Trinidad, 27-0 (23), was hitting with hooks as often as Barnes, 39-2 (15), was missing. In the third, he added some uppercuts, and Barnes' face began to swell. In the fourth, only the challenger's huge heart and superb conditioning allowed him to last as long as he did. Barnes' troubles began when Trinidad clobbered him with a counter hook. The champion followed with four consecutive rights, and Barnes' legs turned to wood. He kept trying until a vicious left uppercut to the body—Barnes said it landed low—folded him and sent him down. Referee Benji Esteves (USA) waved the bout off at the 2:54 mark, and without bothering to count to 10.

The judges were Shafeeq Rashada (USA), Giulio Mancini (Italy), and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico).

"Barnes is a very awkward fighter," said Trinidad. "It was very uncomfortable for me for a few rounds, but then I got used to his style."

"I thought he would stand toe-to-toe," said Barnes, "but he gave me a lot of movement, which was very difficult to handle. I think they should have called [the knockdown punch] a low blow. But he is great. The guy is great, no question."

***

With the heavyweight division as unpredictable as ever, the lighter-weight dream fights of 1996 seem far more palpable. There's Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez at junior welterweight, Marco Antonio Barrera-Naseem Hamed at junior featherweight or featherweight, Danny Romero-Johnny Tapia at junior bantamweight ... and Whitaker-Trinidad.

. The 1985 battle between Donald Curry and Milton McCrory was a marvelous welterweight matchup between undefeated champions, but Whitaker-Trinidad would be the most important 147-pound bout in 15 years, or since Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns clashed in Las Vegas.

Aside from the intrigue of the physical matchup, the stakes will be enormous. Ranked as the best fighter in the game ever since his controversial 1993 draw with Chavez, Whitaker has kept winning. Still, the title has been slipping away. In an insiders poll in the Winter 1995 edition of THE RING, 66 percent of the ballots listed IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones as the pound-for-pound leader. Whitaker finished a distant second at 18 percent. (THE RING continues to rate Whitaker first.) A victory over pound-for-pound entrant Trinidad would almost surely result in Whitaker regaining the unofficial title. And a victory over Whitaker would, at worst, move Trinidad behind Jones.

"The thing that motivates Pete is the pound-for-pound title," said Shields. "Roy Jones is the best motivation for him. If he could fight Roy, he would. But if we tell him a fight with Trinidad is made, the first thing he'll tell me is, 'Great. This is what I want.'"

"What happened between Leonard and Hearns was unusual in that two great young fighters were in the same division at the same time," said HBO analyst Larry Merchant. "This is a different kind of showdown, a more traditional one. It's a great fight in the sense that it matches a champion at or just beyond his peak against a terrific young contender.

"I think Trinidad is a real threat. If I could pick one opponent for Whitaker, it would be Trinidad."

Unfortunately, as 1995 came to an end, the only person capable of making Whitaker-Trinidad wasn't Merchant, or even promoters Duva or King. It was an as-of-yet unnamed judge in Florida, or if the case is moved, New York. As talented as he is, Trinidad may be at the mercy of his attorneys' skills.

And wouldn't it be something if, assuming Trinidad's lawyers are good enough, Whitaker proves to be not only tough enough, but tougher than we had ever expected? ■

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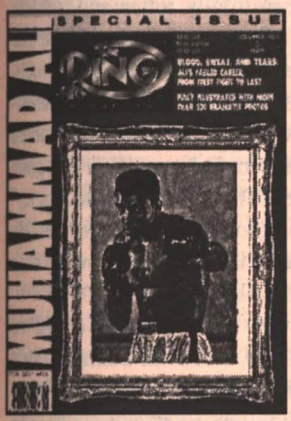

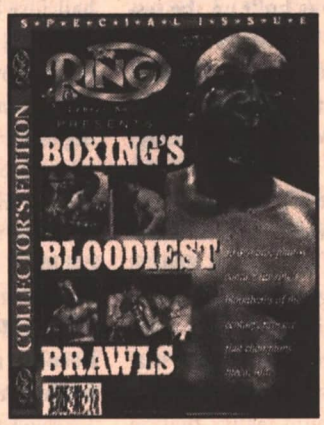

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Jack Newfield

(Continued from page 51)

held damaging information from the grand jury to protect King. So the fact that he knows how to manipulate fighters and control fighters ... To this day I'm astounded at the control he maintains over [Mike] Tyson. I don't think anybody in the world can understand it, what he has on Tyson.

Don knows how to get inside a fighter's head. Many of these fighters, like Tyson, never had a father in real life. He knows how to play the father-substitute, how to take care of fighters. At the beginning of a relationship, he does deliver and keep his word. He does produce the women, he does produce the limos. He does produce the money at the beginning.

The Ring: Getting back to the trial, when it was learned that the jury was hung, were you surprised?

JN: Until King took the stand, in my own mind it was 60-40 he would get acquitted. I was stunned at what a bad witness he made, and by the time the jury went out, in my own mind it was 60-40 he would get convicted. It was a convincing case, but not an air-tight case. Juries now, since Abscam, expect videotape of the crime. And I think there is an element of racial solidarity with black jurors. The two black jurors, other jurors told me, wouldn't even participate in the deliberations. They said, "We vote innocent," and they started to play cards. I think it's hard to convict in this kind of paper-trail, circumstantial case.

I know that King had a jury researcher do polling, and his strategy was to pack the jury with women, not blacks, which they did, on the theory that women A) would not be impressed by Julio Cesar Chavez, and B) would not understand the odd economy of boxing and not be sympathetic to anybody.

The Ring: This wasn't a case of King escaping because of the magnetism of his personality or the aura of his celebrity. And still no conviction ...

JN: One juror told me, "I thought he was guilty, but I leaned toward acquittal because the government didn't prove it." I think also nobody knows what reasonable doubt means. It can be whatever you want it to be.

[In the retrial] I think the strategy of the government is going to be to have a superceding indictment and add some counts. I think they want other counts in an indictment so that a divided jury could possibly compromise and convict on some and acquit on others. In the first trial, the nine counts were all basically about the same thing.

The Ring: Do you feel that, going in, the government felt it had an open and shut case?

JN: *I* felt it was not open and shut because it was mostly circumstantial, and the government never established who typed the bogus contract with the bogus rider. I think in a retrial they will have to pinpoint who typed it and when, and I thought the government did not make enough of the fact that there was the equivalent of the Watergate 18-minute gap when all the fax transmissions between October 11, '91, and November 10, '91, were missing from King's archives. And I think those were the key periods when the fraud was committed.

The Ring: What about the fact that so much of the case was built on the testimony and records of King's former comptroller, Joe Maffia? A tape recording was played at the trial of a conversation during which Maffia tells King, "I'm gonna kick your bleepin' ass."

JN: I think it hurt the prosecution that Maffia made the tape and he had to turn it over under the laws of evidence. I think it was damaging to the government because it gave Maffia an ulterior motive for testifying against King. I think the way the trial played out, Chavez was the most important witness because he could testify that he never saw the contract, he never got the money, and in theory, the $350,000 from Lloyd's should have gone to Chavez. And I think the basic theory of the case is that King was double-dipping, taking from Chavez and taking from Lloyd's of London at the same time.

I think there were a lot of predictions by King's camp that Chavez would never show and would never testify. And I think Chavez deserves a lot of credit for what he did. In fact, the night Chavez testified, a friend of mine called me from Vegas and asked me how good Chavez did. And I said, "He was so good, I'm beginning to think he might've beaten [Pernell] Whitaker."

The Ring: At this point, given King's teflon qualities, is it a stretch to conclude that they're just never gonna get this guy?

JN: It wouldn't surprise me. I think he is such a great confidence man, he has so insulated himself in his organization, and he is so effective at shifting the blame to subordinates. And he's able to get a jury that doesn't know any of his history, particularly when he's packing the jury with women who don't know anything about boxing. If you have a jury of 12 subscribers to THE RING magazine, he would more likely be convicted.

The Ring: King has verbally attacked you in public. I'm sure in your heart you'd like to see him behind bars. Has it been difficult to remain objective?

JN: Not really difficult because I think a journalist is trained to analyze what he sees and to not become emotionally invested. An experienced journalist knows life is not black and white, that nobody is all good or all bad. I can objectively appreciate the immense skills King has. If King had just been totally rotten and ruthless and evil, I wouldn't have sustained the interest over four years to do a documentary and a book. What makes him interesting to me is that he is a case of squandered talent. He is a tragic figure. If he had gone straight after "The Rumble In The Jungle," he could've become a great role model. He could've become like Colin Powell, or a black Horatio Alger.

The Ring: You think he could've become a role model in boxing? Isn't boxing guilty, too?

JN: I think boxing is half-guilty. The system has no regulation and does not protect the fighters. Nobody audits a purse after a big fight. It's the only sport without a national commission. I think it is a sport without rules or regulations, like 18th-century piracy. And King says, "I just exploit the absence of rules," but I would rebutt that he goes beyond even the weaknesses of the sport when he doesn't pay a fighter what the contract calls for, when he imposes his stepson on a fighter and his stepson [Carl King] takes 50 percent of a fighter's earnings [according to affidavits filed by Maffia, King's former comptroller]. That's

taking exploitation to a particular level that King specializes in. So it's both the lack of regulation and rules and auditing of the sport, plus King's own unique levels of exploitation on top of that.

And I should make the point that the systemic problem of boxing will not be solved by a successful prosecution of King. I think the institutional remedy for boxing is exactly what it was in the 1950s, which was a civil anti-trust suit by the justice department that eventually dissolved the Internationbal Boxing Club. What I would like to see now is Attorney General Reno or the U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White bring a civil anti-trust suit or a civil racketeering suit that would include King and the four ratings organizations [the WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO]. As long as politics determines who champions are, that has to be dealt with. I think the underlying problem is an unregulated monopoly. [A suit] will begin to clean up boxing as a sport, above and beyond any prosecution of Don King or Don King Productions.

The Ring: That's in a perfect world. You think we'll ever see that happen?

JN: I think the chances are slim because in Newt Gingrich's Washington, the trend is toward deregulation instead of re-regulation. I think in boxing, there should be more regulation, not less. There should be a national commissioner with real power that can put the alphabets [rating organizations] out of business.

The Ring: Let's assume King has ripped off fighters and contributed to boxing's negative image. But fans are interested in fights and fighters, and nobody can argue that over the past five years, he's made five times as many good fights as any other promoter. How do you argue against the point that business practices aside, he's been giving the fans what they want?

JN: My main case against Don is how he treats fighters, not fans. I think he creates a degenerate moral environment around fighters. The opposite of Don King to me is [Georgetown University men's basketball coach] John Thompson. You look at his ballplayers—they graduate, they have successful careers, they're intelligent, they're drug-free. John Thompson creates a moral environment that's pro-education, anti-drugs, strong personal values. What Don does to fighters, the worst thing he does, is allowing his camps to become re-creations of the ghetto.

Second, even in terms of fans, I think his monopoly politics prevent the best fights from happening. Whitaker-Trinidad. Or Tyson-Bowe. Or Tyson-Foreman. I think he has cheated the fans. He is a great salesman-slash-promoter. He has promoted great fights, but he has also prevented great fights from happening for reasons of monopoly control and reasons of ratings manipulations. And I think that's where he has deprived fans, where he will promote garbage often like Tyson-McNeeley and prevent Tyson from fighting the people I think Tyson would want to fight.

The Ring: One of my criticisms of your book was that you illustrated Don King victimizing fighters, but fighters victimizing managers and promoters was virtually ignored.

JN: I made the point in the book that Larry Holmes betrayed [manager] Ernie Butler, that Gerrie Coetzee betrayed [promoter] Cedric Kushner. I don't believe all fighters have noble character. Some have good character and some have weak character.

The Ring: Let's assume for a moment that King keeps his control. And that Jack Newfield is a manager, and his rising young middleweight is Steve Farhood. Let's assume all three middleweight champions are promoted by King. What's Newfield supposed to do, keep Farhood fighting on the USA Network for $10,000 every three months or sign with King?

JN: I understand anybody going along with the system. I think if you're smart you'll have your own lawyer in the wings and you'll be looking for a loophole along the line.

I think the blame gets put on respectable society, the people who bankroll King—Showtime, the MGM [hotel], they have moral obligations to the fighters. The politicians who appoint the commissions in New Jersey and Nevada, they have moral obligations to the fighters. I think what allows Don to survive is that respectable corporate society looks the other way and says, "It's only boxing. It's always been corrupt and there's nothing you can do about it. This is the way it's always going to be." If in any other sport

(Continued on page 76)

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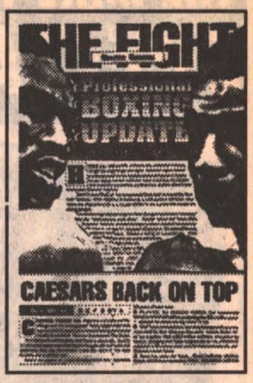

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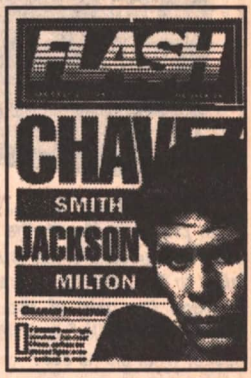

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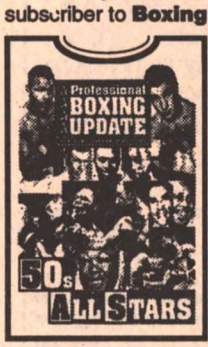

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Jack Newfield

(Continued from page 75)

... if Don Mattingly wasn't paid what the contract said, if Monica Seles wasn't paid what the contract said, there'd be Congressional hearings. People look the other way because it's boxing.

The Ring: You've certainly researched and invesigated a variety of public figures. Has Don King been the most interesting subject on that list?

JN: I think Don King is the smartest, most resilient, most interesting, most colorful, most tragic character of all of them because he has such immense gifts. But he has this demon in him that he has to get over on you some way. I think it's a hustler mentality, a jailhouse mentality. I think he needs to show he's better than you, and the way he does it is by beating you out of money. Tim Witherspoon says it best in the book. Tim said, "The trouble with Don King is he'd rather earn a crooked quarter than an honest dollar." I still think that's a deep insight.

King is so clever, so resilient, you could never count him out. He can get convicted, do 18 months in prison, and then come out and still promote Tyson and Bowe. Poetic justice would be if Don King is in jail for a year and he puts on the TV and sees Tim Witherspoon win the heavyweight championship for the third time.

[Editor's note: Given an opportunity to respond to Newfield's statements, King declined to do so.] ■

Freddie Little

(Continued from page 53)

brothers and sisters. So I want to hear your name on the honor roll every six weeks."

Little was a standout athlete in school, too, lettering in football and basketball. But after a dispute with one of his coaches, he turned his attention solely to boxing.

"I was always a fan of Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson, and watched the weekly fights televised by Pabst Blue Ribbon and *The Gillette Cavalcade Of Sports* in the '50s," Little recalled.

In 1957, the year he graduated from high school, Little received 20 scholarship offers from colleges that wanted him to play football for them. By then he had also caught the eye of fight manager James Stevenson, who made Little his own scholarship proposition. If he would try boxing instead of football, Stevenson would pay all the expenses for two years. Then, if Little wanted to go on to something else, they would part friends.

Little agreed, but there was still the matter of getting the matriarch of the Little clan to give her blessing, and his mother wasn't particularly delighted to have the family role model using his prize brain as a target in the ring.

Little and Stevenson went to her, and the manager made his pitch. "Your son Freddie," he said, "he's a good athlete and has some hidden skills. I'd like to bring him to Mr. Whitey Esneault, and whatever's there, Mr. Whitey will find it."

"Well," said Little's mother, "I'm gonna hold you to it."

And so to New Orleans, 40 miles from Picyune, went Little. He enrolled at Dillard University to continue his formal education, and off-campus became a student of Professor Esneault. "Mr. Whitey" was the Crescent City's foremost molder of boxers, under whose tutelage Little racked up 11 wins in a row, all but two by kayo.

In Little's 12th bout, against tough Norris Burse, Esneault learned that even a college boy needs to have things spelled out for him once in a while.

"I was beating him until I got knocked out," recalled Little of that 1958 bout in New Orleans, his first scheduled 10-rounder.

Before the fifth round, Esneault told him, "Freddie, go out there straight at Burse. Double-jab him and hit him with that right, *hard!*"

Little did as instructed. "I had mother, father, and God in that punch," he said.

But Mr. Whitey had neglected to tell him to do it in the center of the ring, where, upon being punched, Burse would not be obstructed by anything on his way down. Instead, Little hit him when Burse was against the ropes, which held him up. He recovered, then "straightened up and threw a left hook, and down I went," said Little.

He stopped Burse in a rematch and

didn't lose again until cagey George Benton outpointed him in 1960.

By the time he graduated from Dillard with a degree in physical education and health and safety in 1961, Little was 24-2 (18). He wanted to become champion of the world, but that dream was put on hold while he put his formal education to use. Little fought only once over the next three years.

He returned to Picyune and became a sixth-grade teacher, and the following year his new wife, Barbara, got her town-teaching degree from Alcorn State University. The Littles went to Chicago for their honeymoon and ended up staying to teach school there.

Even back in the early-'60s, gangs were a presence in Chicago schools. Little quickly reached an understanding with gang members in his classes.

"One thing about kids is they recognize territory," he said. "I would tell them in school, 'This is Mr. Little's territory. When you're in my territory, you do what I want you to do. When I'm in *your* territory, you tell me, "Teach, I don't think you should be here," and I'll get in my car and leave.'"

He loved teaching, but there was still that other dream. As soon as he and Barbara were settled in for what would be a four-year stay in the Windy City, Little went down to Johnny Coulan's boxing gym, where he and junior welterweight champion-to-be Eddie Perkins soon drew crowds to their sparring sessions, during which they would hone the slick moves that were their trademarks.

In 1965, a local restaurateur named Joe Kiernan decided to help Little revive his ring career. Boxing in Chicago was dormant, but the WBA held its annual convention there that year, and Kiernan met Jim Deskin, a WBA official who was also chairman of the Nevada Athletic Commission. Deskin, in turn, introduced Kiernan to Bill Miller, who was promoting weekly fights on the Las Vegas Strip and was always in the market for good attractions.

That year, Little commuted to Las Vegas for four fights, all wins, and in January 1966, the Chicago schoolteacher scored his biggest win by knocking out Denny Moyer in four rounds.

Moyer, who was the inaugural junior middleweight champion of the world in 1962, had been stopped only once before in 65 fights. "Against Little," wrote Rich Howard, THE RING's Las Vegas correspondent, "the clever young Irishman was much like a novice. Little beat Denny at his own game—boxing. He outjabbed him, outhooked him, outmaneuvered him, and left him glassy-eyed and bloody on the canvas."

Later that year, Little and his wife moved to Las Vegas, and while he continued his climb up the junior middleweight rankings, he taught health and driver's education classes at Rancho High School. He was popular with students, who didn't chafe under his firm but good-natured discipline even in those rebellious late-'60s.

"When Mr. Little's speaking, everyone listens," he instructed his classes. "There's no democracy here. I'm a total dictator."

"What about our Constitutional rights?" some future ACLU lawyer once inquired.

"Well, since you mentioned it, I have a good right hand," answered Little, instantly quelling the incipient uprising.

Schoolkids became regulars at his fights on The Strip, and one of them, a fifth-grader named Barry, led the adolescent cheering section with a battle cry that resounded throughout the arena: "Okay, Mr. Little, learn him how to fight!"

And he did, until a 37-3 Little traveled to Seoul for a crack at the junior middleweight title held by native Ki Soo Kim. Then it was Little who got a lesson, but not in the ring.

The champion was a decent boxer who had won the 154-pound crown a year earlier by inflicting the first-ever loss on Italy's Nino Benvenuti after 120 amateur and 54 pro fights. But the American schoolteacher put Kim through a remedial course in the Sweet Science for 15 rounds before a stunned crowd of more than 10,000 in Seoul Stadium.

"Kim did little more than counter and defend himself, and was never able to get started," reported American boxing writer Jack Muhlenback.

Little put the champion on the canvas during the bout and recalled that "I was hit more by the referee that night than I was by Kim."

After the bell ended the one-sided fight, Little felt buoyant and thought to himself,

(Continued on page 79)

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Publisher's Weekly

The Boxer's Workout clearly and systematically presents all the elements of a sound boxer's workout program, with unprecedented step-by-step photo-illustrations of the essential moves and punches. It was written by writer-boxer Peter DePasquale, with veteran coaches Al Gavin and Bob Jackson of New York's Gramercy Boxing Gym.

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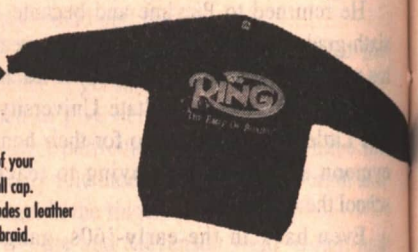

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Freddie Little

(Continued from page 77)

Gee, it's gonna be hard for them to take this.

But the teach was out of his territory. That became clear when no announcement of the decision was made in the ring. Little and Kiernan were in their corner, waiting, when all of a sudden Kim began jumping up and down across the ring.

"Joe," Little told his manager, "go see why he's jumping. Something's wrong here."

A moment later, he said, "everybody skedaddled out of the ring." The championship belt was still around Kim's waist.

The decision, when it was finally disclosed, showed that Korean referee Yung Su Chong had voted for Kim by 71-69, and Korean judge Kwang Su Kim had scored for the champion by 72-68. American judge John Fitzpatrick gave every one of the 15 rounds to Little, scoring 75-64.

Even the *Korea Herald*, a newspaper published by the South Korean Ministry of Information, thought the American had won by a score of 72-68. Muhlenback wrote, "Kim's inept performance is regarded as little less than a national disgrace," and that the entire nation considered the whole episode to be "the greatest national disaster since the Japanese occupied the country in 1910."

The only one not hanging his head was Freddie Little.

"I wasn't oversurprised," he said. "I figured over in those countries anything is possible. I just felt, *Why, heck, I'll get him another time.*

But Italy's Sandro Mazzinghi got Kim first, luring the Korean to Milan, where the native son reclaimed, via split decision, the title he'd held from 1963 to 1965, when he was stopped by Benvenuti.

It was a year before Little got his second chance at the championship. In October 1968, he met Mazzinghi in Rome's Plaza Dello Sport, whose 15,000 paying customers chanted "Littler! Littler!" and "Professori!" as the visiting educator took their champion to school from the opening bell.

"Sandro was just dull-tough and came right at you just gritting his teeth and punching," recalled Little. "It was toe-to-toe pretty much. He was an infighter, and I was going to take his strong suit away. We gutted it out for eight rounds."

When the bell rang for the ninth, the thoroughly trounced Italian remained on his stool. The fight was over, and Freddie Little had finally made boxing's honor roll.

Or so it seemed, until Little, waiting to be proclaimed new champion, saw German referee Herbert Tomser talking to ringside officials. With a growing sense of deja vu, he said to Kiernan, "Go see what this guy's talking about."

At least they announced the result this time, even if it was preposterous. According to Tomser, because the scheduled 15-rounder had not gone past the halfway mark (in fact, eight rounds had been completed), he had no choice under European rules (in fact, it was a world, and not a European, title match) but to declare a no-contest. That, of course, left the battered, bloodied Mazzinghi still champion.

While Kiernan screamed international scandal and a phalanx of Rome police had to escort Tomser to safety, the man victimized by the heist again just shook his head and smiled, although this time more grimly than in Korea.

"I said, 'Boy, boy, boy, justice gonna ring somewhere,'" recalled Little. "This is just another hurdle we're gonna clear."

It wasn't that his heart wasn't broken. Little was just trying to keep the damage from spreading to his head.

"You have to maintain that kind of attitude to retain your sanity," he explained. "When those things happen, there's nothing you can do about it anyway. Making a lot of noise wasn't going to change things. After all is said and done, the decision is going to stay as rendered."

But this robbery was too much even for the powers in charge to ignore. The WBA, WBC, and European officials ordered Mazzinghi to give Little a rematch within two months.

However, the Italian had learned an important lesson from the Nevada schoolteacher—never get in the ring with him again. Mazzinghi was stripped of the title, and Little and Philadelphia contender Stanley "Kitten" Hayward were matched for the vacant laurels in March 1969.

The fight went to a 15-round decision in Las Vegas.

"Nobody gonna beat me in Las Vegas," laughed Little. "It felt great to win a home-

(Continued on page 64)

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town decision."

In fact, Little won easily, receiving all three votes by wide margins. Justice had finally rung for the man from Picyune, and when it did, he let out the emotion he had struggled to hold in check in South Korea and Italy.

"I made a fool of myself," he recalled. "I got teary-eyed."

After all it had taken him to win the title, it would have surprised nobody if Little had refused to defend it anyplace but in his own rec room, with Barry the big-mouthed schoolkid as referee. But, he said, "it didn't discourage me from fighting in guys' backyards. I always figured I had a puncher's chance."

In his first defense, Little knocked out Hisao Minami in two rounds in Osaka, Japan. Then he won 11 of 15 rounds against Gerhard Piaskowy in Berlin—and even got the decision.

In July 1970, Little lost the title to Carmelo Bossi, an Italian, in Rome. Was it another hometowner?

"I thought I did enough to get it," he said, although reports from Rome at the time indicate he was floored in the 11th round and did not box up to his usual standard.

But the man who left boxing in 1972, with a record of 51-6 (32) with 1 no-contest, said that not only does he have no regrets, but that even if he could, he wouldn't change anything that happened to him in the sport.

"I think that had a lot to do with enhancing my manliness and my attitude about life," he said.

Besides, when it comes right down to it, added the fighting schoolteacher, what does it matter how somebody else grades your performance in the ring?

"Regardless of what the governing bodies do," summed up Little, "we athletes know who has cleaned whose clock." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

Frank Espinoza. "Honest. It was one of those racing car games where you're supposed to follow the roadway. When he hit the embankment, the little man in the driver's seat did this thing where he spins around, and Enrique started laughing. I said, 'I've got to take a picture of this—Enrique laughing.'"

Oddly enough, Sanchez, who fights out of Los Angeles by way of Mexico City, displays the same doomsday demeanor of his nemesis, Marco Antonio Barrera, another Mexican junior featherweight who regularly celebrates success like it's a weekend migraine.

Sanchez faced the gifted Barrera in the amateurs, and his people say their fighter not only won the bout, but dropped the highly regarded Barrera with a left to the body in the second round. It turned out to be the last amateur contest for both fighters. Now, of course, Barrera, 38-0, is widely regarded as the best 122-pounder in the world, and Sanchez, though also unbeaten, has had only 16 pro bouts in five years. He remains merely as a prospect.

What happened? The difference, says Sanchez, was management. Sanchez' uncle, Memo Cruz, a sometimes boxer and cornerman, signed on as his first manager. At some point Cruz sold the contract to Mexican promoter Carlos Monroy.

But neither Cruz nor Monroy arranged much activity for their dynamic young puncher. In 1993, Sanchez fought only one bout, a six-round TKO of Moises Rodriguez.

"Enrique wasn't happy," said Espinoza. "He just wasn't fighting." Sanchez traveled north and found Espinoza, who had previously handled former WBC super bantamweight champion Paul Banke. Impressed by what he saw, Espinoza managed to buy Sanchez' contract and now aims to put his crackling phenom into a world title bout by the end of 1996.

"When I see him fight, I see another Ruben Olivares," said Espinoza. "The kid just does everything so well. When I ask [trainer Javier Cappittio] what he's got to work on, he says the kid is such a natural, he just has to stay in shape and keep doing what he's doing. He's got terrific lateral movement, a great punch, and he's very disciplined, very serious."

Serious isn't the half of it. Sanchez would have to cheer up considerably to get serious.

"Enrique's also built to win," said Cappittio. "He's got those long arms (a 72-inch reach), and when have you seen a junior feather that tall (5'7½")? I want him to block punches better after he throws a punch, but he's blocking very well already. I just want him even better."

The heavy-handed Sanchez finishes opponents so quickly, his endurance remains a question mark. In his July 1995 U.S. debut at Caesars Palace, he TKO'd Horacio Ramirez in two. The next month, he knocked out Luis Valenzuela at the Forum, also in two.

Then, in his first scheduled 10-rounder, Sanchez met Landeros in the center of the ring, hit him with a straight left—the only punch of the fight—and Landeros hit the canvas. Startled would not begin to describe the reaction of the crowd—or the look on Landeros' face.

The befuddled Landeros made it up by 10, but referee Jose Cobian took one look at his eyes and waved it off.

"[Landeros] came out bobbing and weaving, but his hands were low," Sanchez explained. "So I put a left in over his gloves."

"Sure we want to see how Enrique handles it when he meets somebody who can really hang in there," Espinoza said, "but I feel real good about it. I know he'll be a champion. Still, we'll have to wait a little because he had all that inactivity. We can't move him too fast."

Meanwhile, Sanchez' life isn't moving too fast, either. His idea of a night on the town is playing Nintendo after dark with Espinoza's children. "When he plays boxing Nintendo," Espinoza said, "then he gets very intense."

And maybe he laughs a bit, too, though we can't really be sure about that. ■

Ivan G. Goldman is The Ring's West Coast correspondent.

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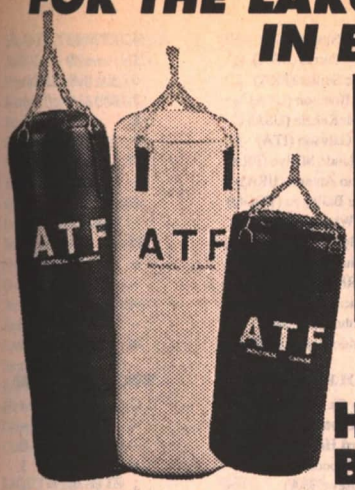

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of October 1995, the WBC ratings were compiled as of September 1995, and the IBF ratings were compiled as of December 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frank Bruno (GB)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	2	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	5	8
Oliver McCall (USA)	3	–	3
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	3	10
Evander Holyfield (USA)	5	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	6	4	5
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	7	9	–
Larry Donald (USA)	8	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	9	6	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	10	–	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	13	7	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	20	8	9
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	18	10	–
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	17	–	2
Corrie Sanders (SA)	11	–	4
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	6
Andrew Golota (POL)	12	11	7

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	IC	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	1	9	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	2	6	12
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	2	11
Torsten May (GER)	4	8	2
David Izeqwire (NIG)	5	–	7
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	6	5	4
Akim Tafer (FRA)	7	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	8	–	–
Chris Byrd (USA)	9	–	–
Carl Thompson (GB)	10	–	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	1	1
Orlin Norris (USA)	12	3	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	–	4	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	13	7	–
Brian Laspada (USA)	16	10	3
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	5
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	–	–	6
Chris Okoh (GB)	–	–	8
Egerton Marcus (USA)	25	–	10

L.T. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	1	2	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	7	3
Mike McCallum (USA)	3	–	7
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	4	9	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	8	5
Jose Gomez (BRA)	6	1	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	7	–	–
Phillipe Michel (FRA)	8	–	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	9	–	–
Noel Magee (GB)	10	–	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	3	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	21	4	8
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	12	5	9
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	6	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	–
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	2
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	4
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	6
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	5	3
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	3	1	2
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	5	3	12
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	6	8	–
Bryant Brannon (USA)	7	6	1
Cecil McKenzie (USA)	8	–	–
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	9	–	–
Jean-Claude M'blye (FRA)	10	–	5
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	2	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	4	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	7	8
Tony Byrd (USA)	18	9	7
Cornelius Carr (GB)	–	10	–
Frank Rhodes (USA)	–	–	4
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	6
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	20	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Quincy Taylor (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	6	3
Joe Lipsey (USA)	2	8	1
Julian Jackson (USA)	3	–	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	4	–	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	5	–	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	6	–	11
John David Jackson (USA)	7	5	4
Buddy McGirt (USA)	8	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	9	–	–
Rodney Toney (USA)	10	–	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	1	–
William Joppy (USA)	14	2	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	3	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	22	4	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	9	6
Zdravo Kostic (SERB)	15	10	–
Robert Allen (USA)	–	–	5
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	7
Neville Brown (GB)	12	–	8
Steve Frank (USA)	–	–	9
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	C	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	–	C
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	4	11
Bronco McKart (USA)	2	6	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	3	5
Winky Wright (USA)	4	2	–
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	5	9	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	6	7	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	9	–	2
Luis Santana (DR)	10	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	1	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	5	9
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	8	4
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	10	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	11	–	1
Andrew Council (USA)	22	12	6
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	7
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	23	–	8
Jose Aguirre (ARG)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Larry Barnes (USA)	1	2	5
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	2	4	1
Oba Carr (USA)	3	1	2
Vincent Phillips (USA)	4	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	5	6	10
Gary Jacobs (GB)	6	7	7
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	7	9	4
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	9	3	–
David Gonzales (USA)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	23	5	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	13	8	8
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	26	10	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	–	–	3
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	6
Rodney Moore (USA)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Jan Bergman (SA)	1	6	2
David Kamau (USA)	2	8	8
Hugo Pineda (COL)	3	4	1
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	4	1	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	7	3
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	6	–	12
Ross Hale (GB)	7	9	9
Freddie Ladd (USA)	8	5	4
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	9	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	2	–
Leonardo Mas (PR)	–	3	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	–	10	–
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	5
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	–	–	6
Giuseppe Sauli (ITA)	–	–	7
Charles Murray (USA)	–	11	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	1	10	5
Steve Johnston (USA)	2	5	3
Lamar Murphy (USA)	3	–	7
Shane Mosley (USA)	4	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	5	7	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	6	11	2
Arturo Gatti (CAN)	7	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	8	–	–
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	9	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	3	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	27	1	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	2	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	–	4	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	13	6	6
Dindo Canoy (PHIL)	–	8	–
Antonio Rivera (PR)	–	9	–
John Lark (USA)	–	–	1
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	8
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	–	9
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	26	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	C
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	1	–	–
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	2	9
Jesse James Leija (USA)	3	7	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	4	11	–
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	5	–	–
Floyd Havard (GB)	6	8	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	7	5	6
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	8	–	4
Fred Liberatore (USA)	9	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	10	3	8
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	6	–
Edson Suxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	9	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	10	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	18	–	7
James Leija (USA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Manuel Medina (MEX)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	3	1
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	7	11
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	8	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	6	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	7	–	3
Kevin Kelley (USA)	8	–	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	9	–	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	10	6	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	12	1	2
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	2	9
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	4	–
Cesar Soto (PAN)	–	5	–
Victor Polo (COL)	23	9	6
Jun Gorres (PHIL)	24	10	–
David Santos (USA)	14	–	4
Billy Hardy (GB)	18	–	5
Orlando Soto (PAN)	17	–	7
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	–	–	8
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	1	–	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	3	6	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	5	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	6	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	7	3	7
Junior Jones (USA)	8	7	12
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	9	8	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	10	10	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	25	1	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Alex Pak (THAI)	–	4	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	5	5
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	13	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	18	–	6
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	8
Aristead Clayton (USA)	–	–	9
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	1	–	12
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	2	–	6
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	1	11
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	4	–	–
John Armour (GB)	5	7	2
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	6	–	–
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	7	–	1
In Jin Chi (KOR)	8	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	9	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	10	12	5
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	4	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	5	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	6	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	17	8	–
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	12	9	10
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	–	10	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	4
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	7
Sergio Reyes (USA)	26	–	8
Alex Yaqupoe (RUS)	–	–	9

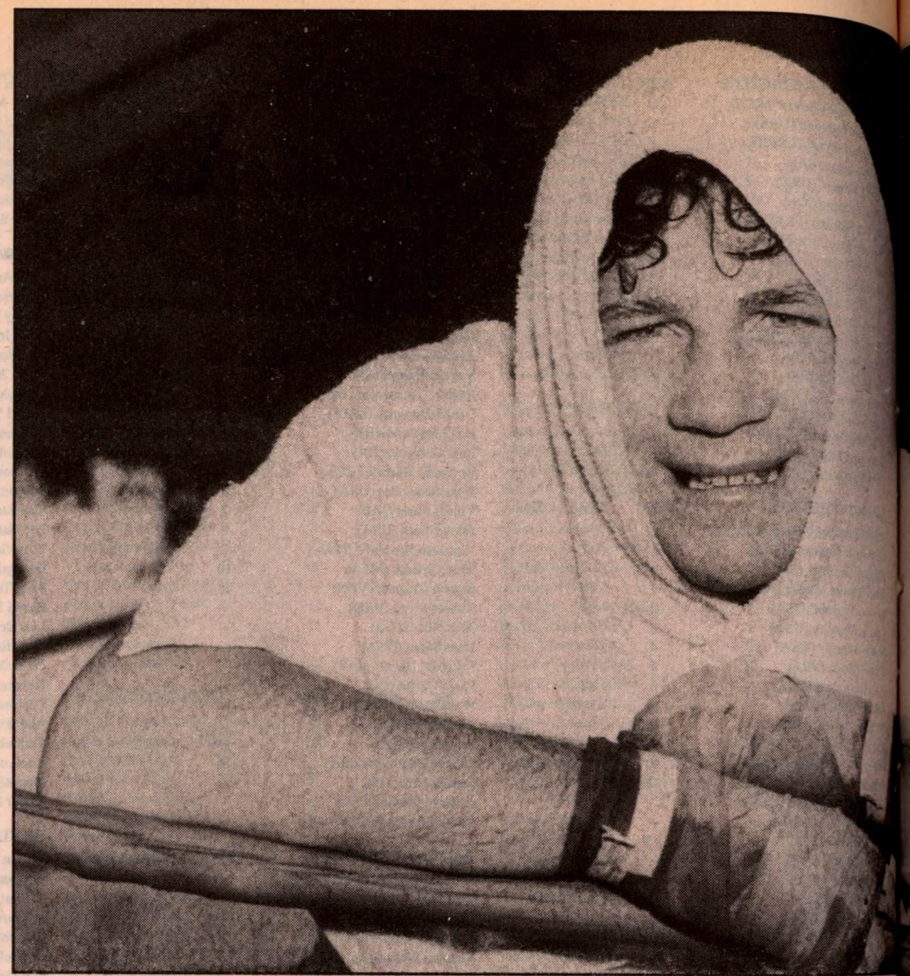
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	6	6
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	4	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	4	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	5	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	6	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	7	2	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Boy Aruan (INDO)	9	9	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	10	11	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	13	3	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	5	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	7	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	11	8	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	26	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	3
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	4
Jose Diaz (USA)	28	–	5
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	19	–	7
Julio Borboa (MEX)	17	–	8
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Mark Johnson (USA)	1	–	2
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	11	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	4	2	–
Daniel Ward (SA)	5	8	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	6	3	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	7	–	11
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	8	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	9	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	4	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	5
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	29	6	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	–	7	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	19	9	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	12	10	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	13	–	1
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	18	–	3
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	4
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	7
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	8
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	9
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	7	2
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	6
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	3	8	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	4	9	4
Michael Carbajal (USA)	5	2	3
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	6	–	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	7	4	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	8	6	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	9	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	1
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	3	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	5	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	7
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	20	–	8
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	19	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	6
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	2	7
Rocky Lin (JAP)	3	7	9
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	4	5	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	5	11	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	6	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	7	1	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	8	–	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	9	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	10	–	2
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	4	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	6	1
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	17	8	3
Nico Thomas (INDO)	–	9	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	11	10	–
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	4
PS Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	5
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	20	–	10

RING CLASSIC



Will 1938 be a comeback year for heavyweight Bob Pastor? A loss to Joe Louis was dismissible, but Pastor's failure against Nathan Mann has forced the experts to reconsider his future.

THE ROAD BACK

From The Ring, April 1938

By Ted Carroll

As is always the case, the year 1938, like all the years preceding since time began, finds the obscurity of former years raised to new places of high estate, and the one-time greats in many instances consigned to the limbo of mediocrity. This is true in all walks of life, and the business of professional boxing, with which this piece is concerned, is no exception. In no particular instance is this more evident than in the case of Bob Pastor, a young man who four months ago occupied a niche in the hall of fistic fame.

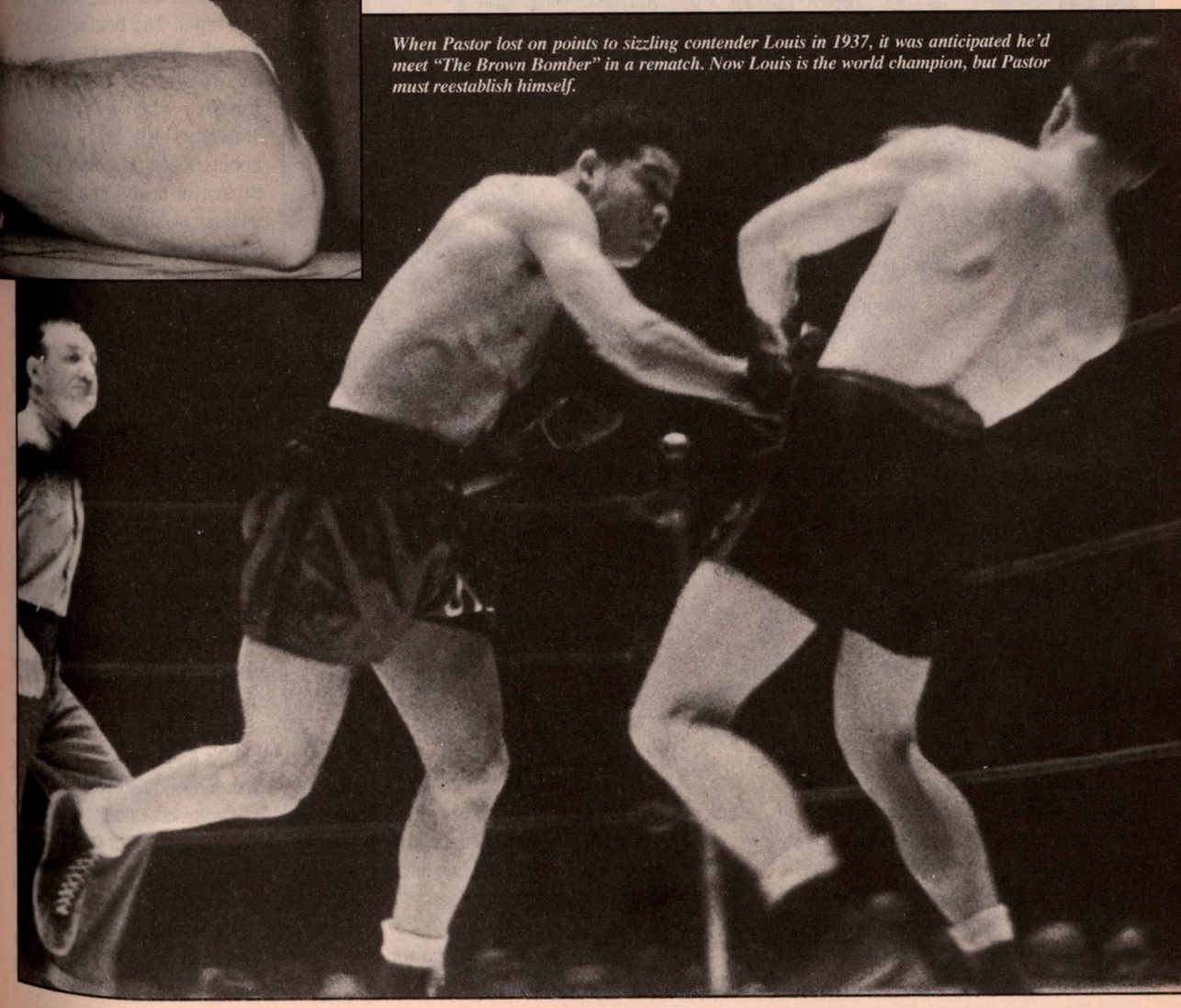
Of course there are some unkind ones who have long insisted that the vocal prowess of James J. Johnston, rather than the fighting qualities of "Rah-Rah" Robert, was responsible for the prominent position in the boxing scene that Pastor formerly enjoyed, but nonetheless the young man was right up there with the leaders, as far as the boxing public was concerned. With Pastor's 10-round ring-around-a-rosy with Joe Louis as a springboard, the astute James J. catapulted his collegiate clouter right up to the top of the heap, and using the Nestell verdict as additional ammunition, Jaunty James was a source of much annoyance to rival heavyweight sponsors.

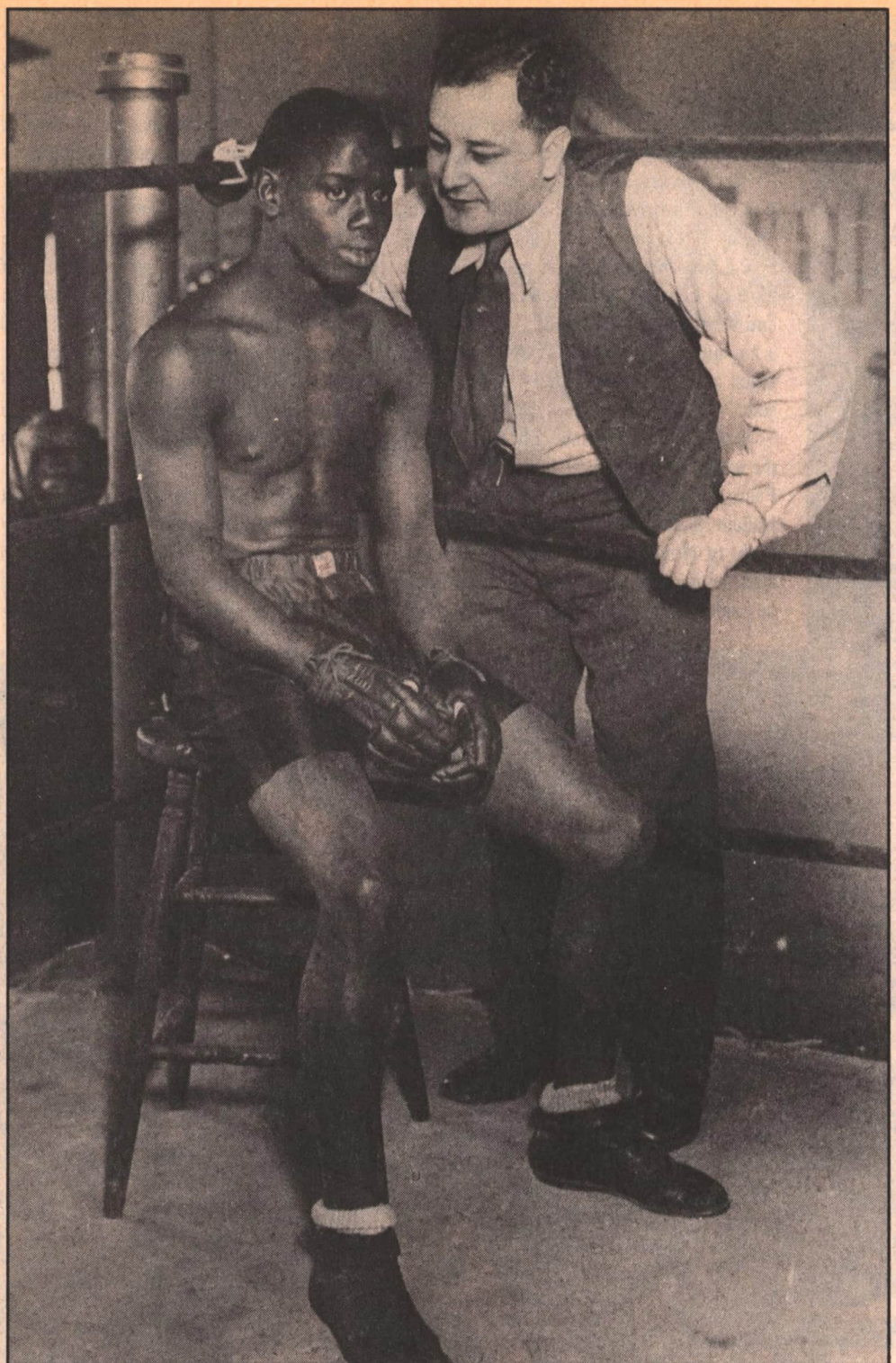
It was as the fifth-ranking heavyweight of the world, according to many critics, that Bob Pastor entered the ring to engage young Nathan Mann in Madison Square Garden the night of November 26 last. Fifty minutes later, he was just another young hopeful, as he made a disconsolate exit, an unimpressive, to put it mildly, loser of a decisive verdict.

The decision itself had not proved as damaging to Pastor as the caliber of his performance, an exhibition that had no hint of the swashbuckling, free-swinging rough-and-rugged style formerly affected by the NYU lad. Apparently, it has dawned on young Robert that his early tactics of roughhouse battling were the proper ones, for reports of his most recent outing with Hans Haverlick in Buffalo speak glowingly of a new Pastor, ever-aggressive in the manner of yore, tossing all caution to the winds.

This should be welcome news to the pleasant-mannered collegian's many friends who have deplored his transition from an honest-to-goodness brawler into a safety-first performer. So now Pastor is beating his way back, trudging that hard road back to the high place in fistiana he formerly occupied. In the bout with Buck Tracey at the Royal Windsor

When Pastor lost on points to sizzling contender Louis in 1937, it was anticipated he'd meet "The Brown Bomber" in a rematch. Now Louis is the world champion, but Pastor must reestablish himself.





Kid Chocolate, shown with Moe Fleischer, was among the greatest fighters of the '30s. He was thought to be finished as far back as 1934, but the Cuban fights on in an effort to recapture past glory.

Club, he again displayed aggressiveness and put his man away in two rounds after scoring four knockdowns, but in order to get back in the good graces of the fight public, he'll have to meet a better opponent than Tracey was. Bob is capable, and should be given better competition. His chances of getting up there once more are excellent, for he is still a youngster. His record shows only three losses in his pro career, and he has shown much ability in some of his contests in the past.

***

There was never a fighter quite like Kid Chocolate, the slick-haired, ebony, statuesque Cuban who electrified New York fight crowds for several years. In his prime, the satiny Keed was a sable symphony in action as he skipped about the ring, his every move a classic of swift, savage rhythm.

Cherubic on countenance, catlike in movement, Chocolate added to his great natural gifts a vivid, charming personality that made him one of the greatest idols and attractions in the history of pugilism. Consequently, it is no wonder that the magnetic Kid's career was curtailed by the bright lights and hot spots of Paris, Madrid, Havana, and New York's Harlem.

The Kid fought 165 times before he was defeated, but once he hit the skids, his decline was rapid. The betting was 10-1, with no takers, that the Kid had fought his last fight in America when he was badly beaten by little Petey Hayes in Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, 1934. Broken in health and spirit, he returned to his native Cuba, and nothing was heard of him for a year when a report drifted up to this country of Kid Chocolate's defeat by one Chauvez in South America.

This convinced the world of pugilism that this dazzling figure's days were definitely done, and there was much sorrow over the Kid's blighted career among his legion of admirers in the United States. That is, everyone was convinced but Chocolate.

Differences that had arisen between his original manager and discoverer, Luis Gutierrez, who guided him to the featherweight and junior lightweight championships of the world and a fortune, were adjusted, and the year 1936 found Kid Chocolate back in the ring. His first foes were naturally not very formidable, and the one-time wonder still had enough left to beat them handily.

After a series of victories over inept opposition, the Kid set sail for the scene of

his days of glory, New York. The magic of his name was still sufficient to pack the old St. Nick's Arena for the first bout of his comeback campaign. It developed that the Cuban had overreached himself, however, for tough Phil Baker was too much for Chocolate and beat him handily.

Undeterred by his setback, the Kid bounced right back, this time against less rugged opposition, and showed flashes of his old form. Since that December defeat at the hands of Baker, the ex-darling of Havana has not suffered a defeat. He has made steady progress over his first attempts at a comeback, and while his foes have not been of top-ranking ability, he has done well with such capable youngsters as Young Chappie, Johnny De Foe, Bernie Friedkin, and Baker, whom he turned the tables on in Havana last September 5.

While expecting the Kid to regain his old position in the world of boxing is probably asking too much, he has progressed far enough to gain ranking among the top 10 featherweights selected by THE RING for the year, a remarkable achievement, all things considered. Everyone who ever knew him rejoices that Kid Chocolate has at least come this far along the road back.

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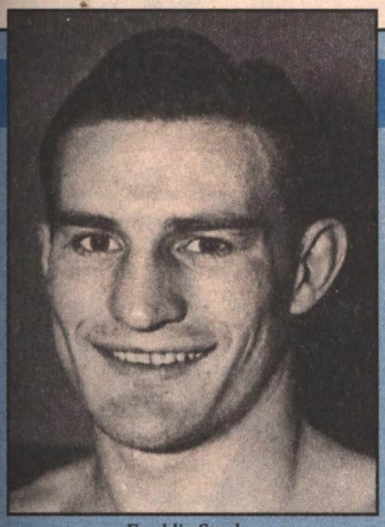
Whereas "comeback" is hardly the word to use when discussing a boxer who has lost but one bout in three years, and that to the world champion, Pedro Montanez seems to belong in the ranks of



Freddie Steele

THE RING RATINGS, *April 1938*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champion: Joe Louis
1. Max Schmeling
2. James J. Braddock
3. Nathan Mann
4. Tommy Farr
5. Tony Galento
6. Gunnar Barlund
7. Buddy Baer
8. Jimmy Adamick
9. Bob Pastor
10. Al McCoy

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: John Henry Lewis
1. Al Gainer
2. Tiger Jack Fox
3. Jock McAvoy
4. Gus Lesnevich
5. Eddie Wenstob
6. Ralph DeJohn
7. Melio Bettina
8. Fred Lenhart
9. Ray Actis
10. Dave Clark

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddie Steele
1. Fred Apostoli
2. Glen Lee
3. Al Hostak
4. Solly Krieger
5. Young Corbett
6. Teddy Yarosz
7. Carmelo Candel
8. Lou Brouillard
9. Ben Brown
10. Eric Seelig

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Barney Ross
1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Jack Carroll
3. Gustave Eder
4. Kid Azteca
5. Saverio Turiello
6. Holman Williams
7. Vittorio Venturi
8. Andrea Jessurun
9. Phil Furr
10. Mike Frattini

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lou Ambers
1. Pedro Montanez
2. Davey Day
3. Wesley Ramey
4. Billy Beauhuld
5. Johnny Bellus
6. Paul Junior
7. Eddie Cool
8. Irving Eldridge
9. Charley Gomer
10. Norment Quarles

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Henry Armstrong
1. Freddie Miller
2. Leo Rodak
3. Everette Rightmire
4. Jackie Wilson
5. Ginger Foran
6. Dick Corbett
7. Johnny Hutchinson
8. Lew Farber
9. Pete Scalzo
10. Al Reid

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Harry Jeffra
1. Pancho Villa
2. Kayo Morgan
3. Sixto Escobar
4. Lou Salica
5. Baby Yack
6. Indian Quintana
7. George Pace
8. Johnny King
9. Tobe De La Rosa
10. Aurel Toma

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Benny Lynch
1. Peter Kane
2. Jackie Jurich
3. Tiny Bostick
4. Tut Whalley
5. Jim Warnock
6. Pierre Louis
7. Small Montana
8. Valentin Anglemann
9. Pat Palmer
10. Frank Kid Bonsor

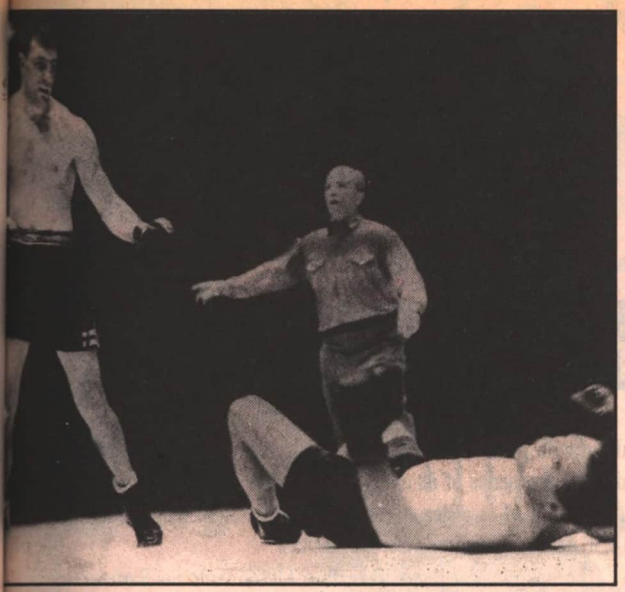
those who are trudging the road back. The brilliant Puerto Rican, who had many votes as THE RING'S greatest fighter before his astounding reversal of form against Lou Ambers, lost much ground in that single contest and is practically starting all over again.

No one seems to know the real reason for the slashing Montanez' desultory performance against Ambers. Unlike most critics, manager Lou Burston does not attribute it to the weight. "No," explains Lou, "since the Ambers fight, Pedro hasn't weighed over 138½ pounds for any fight; he is an honest-to-goodness lightweight. He's far from a welter, although we do want to get Barney Ross. Who wouldn't? He's the champion, you know. And never mind the nonsense about Pedro partying all over town. For the Ambers fight he spent three weeks in the country. For all his other winning fights he lives in Harlem.

"No," insisted Lou, "it was just a bad night, that's all."

Since the Ambers catastrophe, Pedro has had four bouts against second-rate

As he climbed up the ratings ladder, Puerto Rico's Pedro Montanez (above) was thought to be a sure bet as a future world champion. After the lightweight failed in his duel with titlist Lou Ambers (right), he was reduced to the comeback trail.



Finnish heavyweight Gunnar Barlund avenges an earlier defeat by toppling Nathan Mann. Before losses to Mann and Bob Olin, Barlund was being mentioned as an opponent for Joe Louis.

opposition, winning all easily. His present plans call for several tuneup fights, followed by a March match with Henry Armstrong.

***

A year ago, Gunnar Barlund was being prominently mentioned as a prospective opponent for Joe Louis, no less, in a summer bout. The fighting son of Finland, first of his race to attain any real prominence in the prize ring, had turned in several impressive performances and was touted by many as a coming champion. Suddenly, something seemed to happen to the Finn, and he was turned back in successive starts by Nathan Mann and Bob Olin.

The Barlund boom subsided as suddenly as it began, and the Gunnar found himself struggling along that road back. After a long period of inactivity, the Gunnar resumed operations last year against Hans Haverlick, whom he stopped in nine rounds, and on the strength of this performance, was offered a match with Alberto Lovell, who at the moment loomed large on the heavyweight horizon. The pair had met once before, in the 1932 Olympics, with Lovell beating Barlund and going on to win the Olympic title, and there seemed to be no reason why he could not repeat, as Lovell was undefeated at the time.

A short-ender, Barlund came through in sensational style, caught up with his fast-stepping opponent, had him on the floor, and won handily. This win over the unbeaten Argentine merited plenty of consideration, and the Finnish hope seems definitely out of his slump and on the road to better things.

Trudging along arm-in-arm with his fighter is Paul Damski, who in the past has been often disappointed when on the verge of crashing the top flight of the heavyweights with his proteges. Paul, talking in English, one of the seven languages he speaks, explains Barlund's slump with just a trace of an accent:

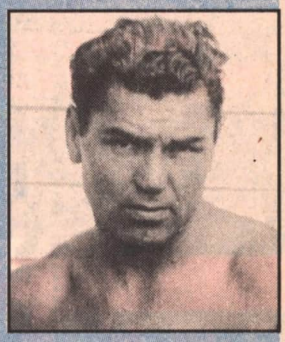
"Sickness. The cold was in his body and we couldn't get it out. They said he was one of the best when he first came over, and they'll be saying it again, now that he is well again." ■

THE RING, April 1938

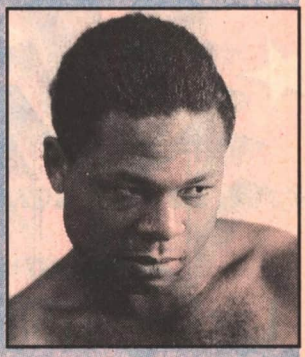
The Cover: The middleweight boiling pot includes a host of young 160-pounders, including Freddie Steele, Fred Apostoli, Marcel Thil, Al Hostak, Ben Brown, Jock McAvoy, Glen Lee, and Ken Overlin. Will one of these fighters emerge as the division leader in 1938?

A Sudden Goodbye: You'd think that after defeating contender Tommy Farr, former world heavyweight champion Jim Braddock would be looking to the future. Instead, "The Cinderella Man" shocked insiders by announcing his retirement at age 31. His final record: 51-25-6 (26) with 2 no-decisions and 2 no-contests.

Those Thumping Tonics: Whenever boxing fans bemoan the lack of genuine stars, a fresh face, usually in the form of a knockout artist, emerges. As Hype Igoe details, fighters such as Jim Jeffries, Joe Louis, and Jack Dempsey (pictured) have helped save the fight game.



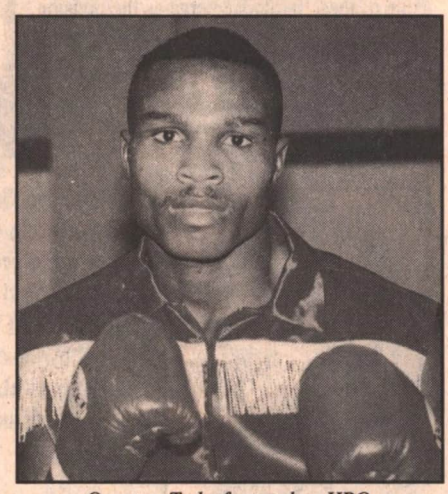
Blows That Count: Editor Nat Fleischer details the punchers and punches that have helped shape boxing history. Analyzed are such celebrated blows as the solar plexus punch of former heavyweight champion Bob Fitzsimmons (pictured).



New Faces: Meyer Ackerman examines some of the ring's top prospects, including a middleweight from St. Louis named Archie Moore. The big puncher has been fighting out of Indianapolis. After 22 bouts, he's 20-0-2.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood



Quartey: To be featured on HBO

LATE NIGHT WITH JIM LAMPLEY

Fox, initially burned by the Tyson-Mathis postponement, is going ahead with plans to launch a monthly series of late-night cards. HBO is airing a new series of its own, which begins on February 3. The network has committed to at least four shows, to be aired on Saturday nights at 11:30 p.m. Eastern time, over six months.

The opening card was to feature Marco Antonio Barrera-Kennedy McKinney and Saman Sorjaturong-Chiquita Gonzalez II. Tentatively scheduled for March was Ike Quartey-Vince Phillips.

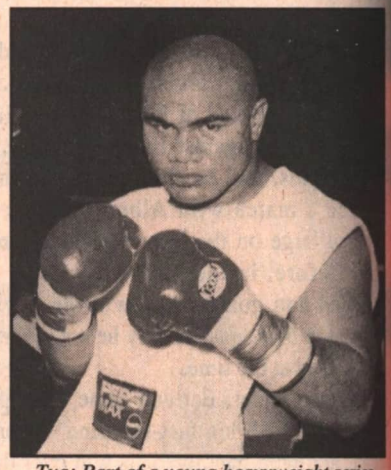
Hard-core boxing fans have reason to celebrate for one simple reason: Judging by the matchups on the first show, the fights are going to be better than those aired by HBO in prime time.

"As good as these fights are, they'll be the types of fights we wouldn't put on HBO because of the lack of marquee appeal," explained HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella. Referring to Barrera-McKinney, which is a four-star matchup, he said, "We just can't headline a show [in prime time] with junior featherweights."

What this series will do, of course, is help groom fighters like Barrera and Quartey for prime time. Sounds great to us. After all, what would you rather see: fighters like Barrera and Quartey in top-level matchups or Roy Jones and Pernell Whitaker knocking off sadly overmatched challengers?

LISTEN UP

Look for **Oscar De La Hoya** to move up to junior welterweight and face the resurgent **Sammy Fuentes** in February ... A couple of good matchups are set for the first installment of the HBO series for young heavyweights: On March 15, **Danell Nicholson** will face **Andrew Golota**, and **David Tua** will square off with **John Ruiz**. **Shannon Briggs** will appear in a third bout ... Don't be surprised if you see **James Toney** soon try the heavyweight division. **Jeremy Williams** has been mentioned as a potential opponent ... WBC super middleweight champion **Nigel Benn** will next defend against mandatory challenger **Sugarboy Malinga** ... The comebacking **Jeff Fenech** is seeking a title try against WBC super featherweight champion **Azumah Nelson**.



Tua: Part of a young heavyweight series

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Mike Tyson	Riddick Bowe	3-2	Hard to tell till Tyson fights a live body
Mike Tyson	Frank Bruno	5-1	This will tell us where Tyson's at
Riddick Bowe	Lennox Lewis	9-5	Odds have tightened due to recent performances
Michael Moorer	George Foreman	3-2	Moorer gets revenge
Oscar De La Hoya	Sammy Fuentes	8-1	Surprisingly tough test for Oscar's first fight at 140
Marco A. Barrera	Kennedy McKinney	5-2	A great fight. Let's hope it comes off

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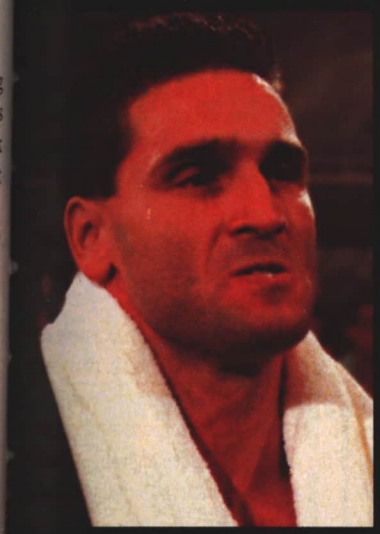

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SHAMROCK VS. KIMO

KIMO
Hawaiian Fighting Legend

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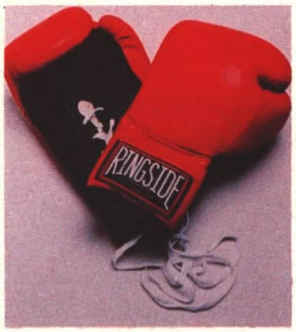

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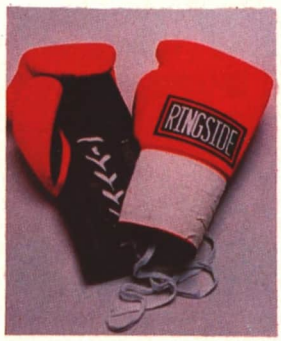

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